NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

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MURDER INK

Sex fiend Braunstein pens letter to Post vowing to kill if he's released

Notorious sex offender Peter Braunstein, 62, is making a case against state parole reform, warning of a bloodbath if someone like him is ever set free under woke bills being considered in Albany. "All I'd do is kill people," Braunstein scribbled in an unhinged letter to a Post reporter. The one-time fashion writer made international headlines in 2005 when he impersonated a firefighter to invade the home of, and sexually torture, a former colleague he was obsessed with. He then evaded a nationwide police manhunt for two months. "Prison is where I deserve to be," he insisted.

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Sexy Sofia's b'day suit

Ciao, bella! **Sofia Vergara can still bring the heat at 54, celebrating her birthday yachting off the coast of Italy with friends. The "Modern Family" bombshell returned fans' love on Instagram.**

sofia vergara/ instagram

NOT SO 'BUSY' BODIES

Work-rate fake

By JEANNE ERICKSON

For some workers, looking busy has become part of the job description — and Gen Z has turned it into an art form.

A new survey of 1,003 full-time US professionals found that 80% of Gen Z workers admit to faking productivity after finishing their real work — the highest rate of any generation, well ahead of millennials at 68% and Gen X at 58%, according to technology consulting firm Software Finder.

But Gen Z isn't alone.

Overall, 66% of employees admitted they've pretended to stay busy after wrapping up their work.

On average, they spend nearly five hours a week keeping up appearances — the equivalent of roughly 32 workdays, or almost seven full workweeks a year.

Instead of logging off and risking a manager's disapproval, many resort to simple tricks to appear active.

Among Gen Z workers, 56% admit they periodically jiggle their mouse or keep a decoy browser tab or document open, while 43% deliberately delay responding to non-urgent messages to make themselves look busier than they really are.

Hybrid employees were the biggest offenders overall, with 76% admitting they fake productivity, compared with 66% of remote workers and 57% of employees who work in the office full time.

Managers aren't exactly setting the example, either.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) admitted they've also pretended to be busy — usually for the benefit of their own bosses.

Little guilt

Only 18% of workers said they feel guilty about the behavior, while just 7% resent having to do it.

"It's not that they're rejecting work — they're rejecting the notion that sitting at a desk until 5 p.m. automatically equals productivity," Marium Lodhi, chief marketing officer at Software Finder, told The Post.

More than half of workers who fake productivity said they complete their assignments at least an hour before quitting time, while 22% finish two or more hours early.

Sixty-four percent admitted that they intentionally slow down because finishing too quickly often leads to one reward — more work.

Pumps 'help you poop'

A gut health brand is giving bathroom breaks a stylish upgrade with a chic new alternative to the Squatty Potty, debuting a limited-edition pair of shoes it says can help make trips to the toilet a smoother experience.

"They are about to change the way the world poops," Let Loose founder and CEO Alexandra Houx Grounds declared on Instagram.

Designed to be a more discreet and stylish alternative to traditional toilet stools, the $69 "s--t shoes" feature a design reminiscent of slip-on platform sandals.

Featuring a 7-inch lift, these wedges are designed to raise the knees into a squat-like position while on the toilet. *McKenzie Beard*

'Nary' Queen padlocks

America's love affair with the Blizzard is on ice.

Since early 2025, Dairy Queen has been in a franchise meltdown, closing at least 46 locations nationwide, with Texas taking the biggest hit after the chain operator, Project Lonestar, refused to renovate its restaurants, which got them iced out of the DQ family. Between February and March alone, 42 Texas locations shut down, leaving Lone Star cravers to fend for themselves.

In Alaska, three DQ locations, in Anchorage, Wasilla and Palmer, all shuttered at the start of July, leaving the 49th state with just one Blizzard maker left, according to the Anchorage Daily News. *Faran Krentcil*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK

- Midday Nos. Sat.: **204**
- Midday Win-4 Sat.: **0072**
- Midday Take-5 Sat.: **3, 13, 14, 24, 28**
- Evening Nos. Sat.: **979**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **4143**
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- Lotto Sat.: **15, 22, 35, 37, 51, 57**; Bonus: **36**
- Pick-10 Sat.: **1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 38, 46, 53, 57, 63, 74, 77, 78**
- Millionaire for Life Sat.: **4, 13, 14, 30, 39**; MB: **4**
- Powerball Sat.: **8, 10, 14, 45, 59**; PB: **5**; PP: **x2**; DP: **5, 7, 17, 26, 28**; PB: **5**

NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Sat.: **974;** Fireball: **6**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **2852;** Fireball: **6**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **1, 7, 13, 18, 42**; Xtra: **2**

CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Sat.: **368;** Wild: **5**
- Play-4 Sat.: **0024;** Wild: **1**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **5, 13, 18, 26, 33**

Legionnaires' cleaning at the Gugg

The Guggenheim Museum is among the 31 Upper East Side buildings where the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease was detected, officials revealed.

The museum, at 1071 Fifth Ave., and the owners of 18 other properties have already cleaned and disinfected their tainted water-cooling towers, according to the city Department of Health, which Friday identified all of the infected properties by address. The other 12 buildings were ordered to complete the deep cleaning to eradicate the Legionella bacteria by Saturday. It is not yet clear if they all complied.

The Guggenheim, which has an average of 1,100 daily visitors, was not ordered to shut down at any point, the DOH said.

The museum told The Post on Saturday it took immediate remediation steps after it learned of the presence of Legionella bacteria.

"The city has confirmed that there is no additional action needed at this time, and this poses no risk to anyone inside the building," a Guggenheim spokesperson said, adding that the museum conducts monthly cooler tower testing and treatment. *Katherine Donlevy*

GUGGENHEIM MUSE
Getty Images

Vagrant plan roils Sheepshead Bay

By GABRIELLE FAHMY,
RICH CALDER and NICK LABBAT

> **Someone who was just released from prison is now living at the shelter. . . I don't want it to get worse. I'm worried.**
>
> **—Neighbor Olga Adynets**

GOLD STAR INN
U-HAUL
Leonardo Munoz for NY Post

The city is moving 110 unvetted vagrant men into a shelter in quiet Sheepshead Bay, terrifying neighbors who fear the influx could bring violent criminals and sex offenders to their doorstep.

Crime began creeping into the normally peaceful Brooklyn neighborhood after the former Gold Star Inn on Emmons Avenue was converted into a homeless shelter for families about a year ago, residents told The Post.

But now the city is booting the 55 families to make way for single homeless men as early as next week, and neighbors are petrified crime will spiral further.

"People are breaking into cars, people are destroying the park, taking their pants down in the park," lamented a man who identified himself only as Fahad, 30, a plumber from Brighton Beach. "It used to be very quiet."

Shooting incidents are up 400% so far this year in the 61st Precinct, which encompasses Sheepshead Bay, and retail theft is up 10%, according to NYPD data. Reports of rape have doubled so far in 2026, to 16 from 8 at the same time last year.

To make matters worse, the city will not screen the wave of incoming hobos for prior sexual offenses.

"The Department of Homeless Services confirmed that no criminal background vetting will take place, leaving room for potential sex offenders and convicted felons to come in contact with our children," City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov (R-Brooklyn) raged in a letter sent to the city's Department of Social Services last week.

The news was worrisome for area residents.

The shelter is across the street from Lew Fidler Park, a popular family hangout that includes a playground.

"Someone who was just released from prison is now living at the shelter . . . I don't want it to get worse. I'm worried," neighbor Olga Adynets, 37, originally from Moscow, told The Post.

'Prez-jet swap' journos subpoenaed

The Trump administration subpoenaed several New York Times journalists after the newspaper reported that the president swapped the White House's newly refurbished $400 million jet gifted by Qatar while on a trip to Turkey over a "security precaution."

The subpoenas, issued Friday, order the reporters to testify before a federal grand jury in Manhattan on Wednesday.

The paper blasted the move as anti-free press and said it should "shock the conscience."

It comes days after publication of the report, which questioned whether the new plane, a Boeing 747-8 featuring expansive room and luxury finishings, had been "retrofitted with sufficient security measures" during the rush to get it in the air. It cited lawmakers' concerns about whether the job allowed for adding "an advanced missile defense system and other modifications."

Meanwhile, Trump yesterday blasted the Gray Lady from his golf course in Sterling, Va., tearing into the "Failing New York Times."

He said the paper "spends all of its energy on negative stories about me," but did not otherwise reference the report about Air Force One. *Geoff Earle*

Parks worker a 'perv': lawsuit

An NYC Parks supervisor allegedly pulled down his pants and masturbated in front of an employee who repeatedly rejected his sickening sexual advances, according to a lawsuit.

The woman allegedly faced unrelenting sexual abuse during her six-month stint working as a parks cleaner in The Bronx under her perverted boss Hairold Suriel Martinez, she claimed in the June 19 filing in Bronx Supreme Court.

And the alleged victim, 36, said she was left hung out to dry when she cried out for help.

She started working for the department in March of 2025 through the Parks Opportunity Program (POP), a temporary program aimed at helping unemployed New Yorkers gain skills and climb out of poverty.

Suriel Martinez, 39, started coming on to her almost immediately, the woman claimed.

"POP workers used to be called 'temporary park' workers — 'TP' workers," her attorney Edmond Pryor told The Post. "You know what that stood for to the guys at the Parks Department? 'Temporary p--sy.' "

Suriel Martinez would allegedly wink and lick his lips at the woman, she said in the filing.

Suriel Martinez, who rakes in roughly $80,000 as a Parks supervisor, became more brazen by April 2025, she claimed.

He followed her inside a park bathroom and shut the door behind them, according to the lawsuit.

When she turned around, he had his pants dropped, exposing his "erect penis," and was masturbating, according to the lawsuit.

She said she complained about Suriel Martinez being a "pervert" to her other supervisors, but her concerns were brushed off.

The Department of Parks and Recreation declined to comment. Suriel Martinez did not return a request for comment.

Sonya Gugliara

Braunstein: Don't parole monsters like me

By TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

Notorious imprisoned NYC sex fiend Peter Braunstein is making a case against state parole reform, warning of a bloodbath if someone like him is ever set free.

"All I'd do is kill people," Braunstein told The Post in an unhinged, scribbled letter where he promises to murder Democrats and "monsters" if he is ever released.

Braunstein — a one-time fashion writer who made international headlines in 2005, when he impersonated a firefighter, sexually tortured a former colleague he was obsessed with in her Chelsea apartment and then evaded a police manhunt across several states for two months — warned woke Albany reforms will only let more dangerous lunatics like himself out on the streets.

"If I was let out tomorrow, I'd be reincarcerated in short order because all I'd do is kill people," he wrote in the June 12 letter to a Post reporter.

'WOKE' A JOKE: SICKO

NEVER FREE ME: Peter Braunstein (2007) set a fire and dressed as a firefighter (inset) to gain access to a woman's Chelsea apartment, then sexually tortured her for hours.

Shannon DeCelle for NY Post

Caged 'turd' sings

"Prison is where I deserve to be," wrote Braunstein, who is serving 18 years to life in Wende Correctional Facility in upstate Alden.

The ex-Women's Wear Daily fashion critic offered a laundry list of targets: "Democrats (traitors), trannies (monsters), that Piker guy," he wrote, referring to Hasan Piker, a far-left influencer and streamer.

"The list is endless.

"The U.S. right now is lost, baby, lost," he wrote. "I'm so glad I'm not out there."

The Post wrote to Braunstein, 62, asking what he'd do if he was granted his release under two new parole-reform bills under consideration in Albany.

The Elder Parole bill would let violent criminals dodge their minimum sentences, regardless of how heinous their crimes, and be granted early parole hearings after they've turned 55 and served 15 years of their sentences.

A second measure, the Fair and Timely Parole bill, would require the state Parole Board to release convicts regardless of the severity of their crimes unless they are a "current" danger to the public.

Braunstein had a parole hearing last year and was denied because he didn't show up for it, but is set to reappear before the board next year.

NEW YORK POST
SPORTS EXTRA
Fire fiend's sick laughter
Home in chains

Critics fear lunatics like him might be sprung if the bills become law.

"I think you're going to see a lot of murderers released. . . . [Murderers] and sex offenders, and assuredly some criminals who have committed the most heinous crimes in New York. . . . I'm talking about guys like [John Lennon's murderer] Mark David Chapman and the Son of Sam [serial killer David Berkowitz]," said former Parole Board Commissioner and state Sen. Marc Coppola, who resigned from the board in September.

"And the difference between the two bills is some of them will actually be released earlier than their minimum, and that alone, I think, is very, very wrong," he said. "It's disrespectful to the victim and the victim's families."

Had Braunstein shown up for that missed hearing in 2025 — and attended a second hearing — he'd likely walk free as the bills are written, Coppola said.

But Braunstein insists he doesn't want to get out.

"The only way I'm leaving prison is in a body bag," Braunstein wrote in the three-page missive written in blue ink on yellow legal-pad paper.

And both he and the public are better off, he said.

'Done with the world'

"This may seem hard to believe and is certainly not the typical inmate position, but when I committed my crimes in 05 I was done with the world and I have consistently maintained that position ever since," said Braunstein.

"Prison isn't just where I deserve to be, it's where I want to be because it separates me from a world I loathe."

The failed playwright has been busy behind bars, revealing he has written a sick book about incest.

"I wrote a mini-novel called Infinite Wishes about a teenage girl who has an ambiguous sexual relationship with her father and goes on to acquire special powers," he wrote.

"Sure, I'd love to see it published but that's unlikely, but it's still gratifying as a personal accomplishment."

On Halloween night 2005, Braunstein set a fire outside the 36-year-old victim's apartment and pretended to be a firefighter in a ruse to get her to open the door.

Once inside, he chloroformed the woman, stripped her to her underwear and bound and sexually assaulted her for more than 13 hours, videotaping the abuse.

"I was terrified," the victim, a former writer for W magazine, testified at his 2007 trial.

"He told me I was lucky I was alive," she testified, remembering waking up bound by her wrists and ankle to her bed — wearing only her pink underwear and a pair of bronze stilettos he had found in her closet.

Before leaving, he scrawled a mocking note on her mirror: "Bye — Hope things turn around for U soon."

Braunstein was convicted of kidnapping, sexual abuse, robbery and burglary.

Once he completes his sentence, Braunstein has to serve another 23 years in Ohio for kidnapping a male psychiatrist while he was on the lam for two months.

He was finally captured in Tennessee, stabbing himself in the neck in a failed suicide attempt as cops closed in.

Treating nabe like garbage

SI sanitation mess

By DAVID SPECTOR

It's trashy behavior.

The New York City Department of Sanitation is disciplining out-of-control garbage men after they were caught on video leaving one Staten Island block a trash-strewn dump.

In images posted to Facebook on July 3, workers outside a Westerleigh home on Stewart Avenue can be seen tossing trash bags into the middle of the street — where a garbage truck then runs them over, scattering refuse across the road.

It was recorded by Alessante Catalano's household security camera at 5:27 a.m, the Staten Island Advance first reported.

"There's garbage everywhere, it's disgusting, Sanitation is supposed to clean up the place, not make it dirtier," the outraged resident told The Post.

Catalano, 36, said sanitation workers have treated his neighborhood as a pigsty for years — carelessly tossing trash bags and pails around and leaving garbage all over the road.

'Whole block smelled'

He began witnessing the incidents shortly after he moved to the Forgotten Borough in 2018, but they've been getting worse recently.

In another stinky scene, captured on video Feb. 28, New York's Strongest threw a garbage bag containing 20 baggies of dog feces in the middle of the street.

The bag broke open, the baggies fell out and cars ran them over — smearing excrement all over the road.

"The whole block smelled, it was horrible," Catalano said.

Catalano reported the s--tshow to DSNY, which told him it investigated but found "no condition" at the location, despite the images he sent of poop-filled roads.

Sante Catalano

IT'S RUBBISH: Security footage shows workers tossing trash bags into the middle of the street.

Sanitation workers have tossed garbage cans into his wife's car and other cars on his block, he claimed.

"It makes me and my wife upset to see our pails thrown out in the middle of the street, I pay a lot of taxes in this city, to see it go to waste is a shame," he said.

Catalano lamented that the litter-lined streets have created unsanitary conditions, and he said it's made it difficult to even take his dog for a walk.

"I take my dog out for a walk and she picks up trash, used paper towels I have to take out of her mouth," he said.

"I don't want to get anybody fired, but something has to be done."

DSNY did not name the workers or specify how they will be disciplined for the July 3 incident.

"This video clearly does not reflect the high standards of the Department of Sanitation," a spokesperson said.

"Sanitation workers are required to collect all trash properly set out for collection without leaving a mess in the streets."

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

U.S. HITS

By DAVID SPECTOR
and GEOFF EARLE

The US unleashed its military might on Iran after the regime attacked a commercial vessel and declared the Strait of Hormuz closed Saturday.

"Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth posted on X.

The strikes were launched after Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy attacked the M/V GFS Galaxy, a Cyprus-flagged container ship, and declared the crucial waterway closed.

A civilian crew member from the ship is now missing and the vessel suffered significant engine room damage in the strikes, CENTCOM said.

Iran also targeted other ships navigating the strait, and the US shot down several drones, an official told the Wall Street Journal.

Iran fired at least two missiles at commercial vessels traversing the strait Monday night, according to a report citing two US officials.

Two commercial ships were badly damaged in the attacks but no casualties were reported, Axios reported.

The US vowed that Tehran would pay a "heavy cost" and said that the retaliation, which began at 7:15 p.m. ET, was being carried out under the direction of the commander in chief, President Trump.

"Iran was provided yet another opportunity to demonstrate adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding after being held accountable for ear-

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Heir 'apparent'?

A mystery man donning a black mask was seen at the funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, fueling speculation that the new supreme leader — his son Mojtaba Khamenei — had finally appeared in public.

The man, seen helping lead prayers for the assassinated supreme leader on Thursday, was wearing a baseball hat and black mask covering his face.

But it turned out to be Mohammad Javad Khamenei — the slain ayatollah's eldest grandson, Iran International reported.

Javad Khamenei was badly injured during the Feb. 28 US and Israeli airstrikes that killed Ali Khamenei.

David Spector

BACK HARD

MAG EMERALD

'MADE A POOR CHOICE': The Strait of Hormuz was closed again after Iran attacked a commercial vessel and was met with a barrage from the US, which had issued an ultimatum to keep the key waterway open. Meanwhile, pro-government Iranian civilians (left) took to the streets.

Unloads on Iran after it attacks ship

lier attacks on commercial vessels but has again failed," CENTCOM said in a statement on X.

Strikes deep in Iran

Explosions were heard in the southern Iranian cities of Bushehr and Asaluyeh early Sunday local time, Iranian state-run media reported.

Iranian state media claimed that military buildings were hit in the Bushehr strikes, and a military site in Deyr was also hit.

There were also strikes in the city of Kagan, which is near Iran's vital South Pars oil and gas field, and in Jask, according to the New York Times.

Additional strikes were reported deeper inside Iran, including in the city of Kerman, which is 300 miles away from the coast, CNN reported.

The regime responded to the fierce US retaliation by launching a wave of attacks on multiple US allies in the region.

The United Arab Emirates Defense Ministry announced that Iran had targeted the country with a missile and drone onslaught.

"The UAE's air defenses are currently engaging with missile attacks and incoming drones from Iran," the UAE's Ministry of Defense posted on X.

Jordan's Prince Hassan Air Force base was also targeted by numerous ballistic missiles, according to Iranian State Media.

The IRGC claimed to have destroyed a command and control center and several drone storage facilities at the base, CNN reported.

In addition, Qatar's air defenses intercepted a missile attack, the ministry of defense posted on X.

Iran had earlier warned that US strikes would be met with a "severe" response and that "new enemy bases" in the Middle East would be targeted.

Alarm sirens also rang out in Bahrain, the country's Interior Ministry announced.

The IRGC claimed to have fired a "warning shot" at the Cyprus-flagged ship, which was traversing an "unauthorized route."

. *With Wires*

Tehran's nuclear 'reaction'

Alarming new satellite images show signs that the Iranian regime appears to be rebuilding its suspected nuclear facilities at Pickaxe Mountain and Parchin (right).

Footage of both areas — which sustained extensive damage during US-and-Israeli-led bombing campaigns that began in late February — reveals "major signs" of activity, according to CNN, which obtained images from private firms.

Such construction likely runs afoul of the Memorandum of Understanding that Iran and US negotiators reached last month during a cease-fire that President Trump now says is "over" following Iranian attacks on shipping vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, satellites did not appear to pick up activity at some of Iran's most notorious nuclear sites like Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan.

US and Israeli forces repeatedly targeted the Parchin site, which the Iranians had covered with a protective concrete shield, in the joint air campaign launched on Feb. 28.

But a series of large blast holes, which were clearly visible on June 10, had been covered over 12 days later. *Geoff Earle*

Satellite image ©2026 Vantor

Ayatollah vows to 'avenge' dead dad

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei vowed Saturday to avenge his slain father, while President Trump warned "1,000 missiles" were aimed at the Islamic Republic if the regime followed through.

The likely disfigured Khamenei issued the threat as his first public message following the funeral of his 86-year-old father, the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"We pledge to avenge the blood of the martyred leader and all the martyrs of these two wars from the criminal and disgraced killers," the younger Khamenei wrote on Telegram of the US and its ally Israel.

"Whether we are here or not, this will be achieved, and soon individuals among the freedom-seekers across the world will each carry out part of this divine mission."

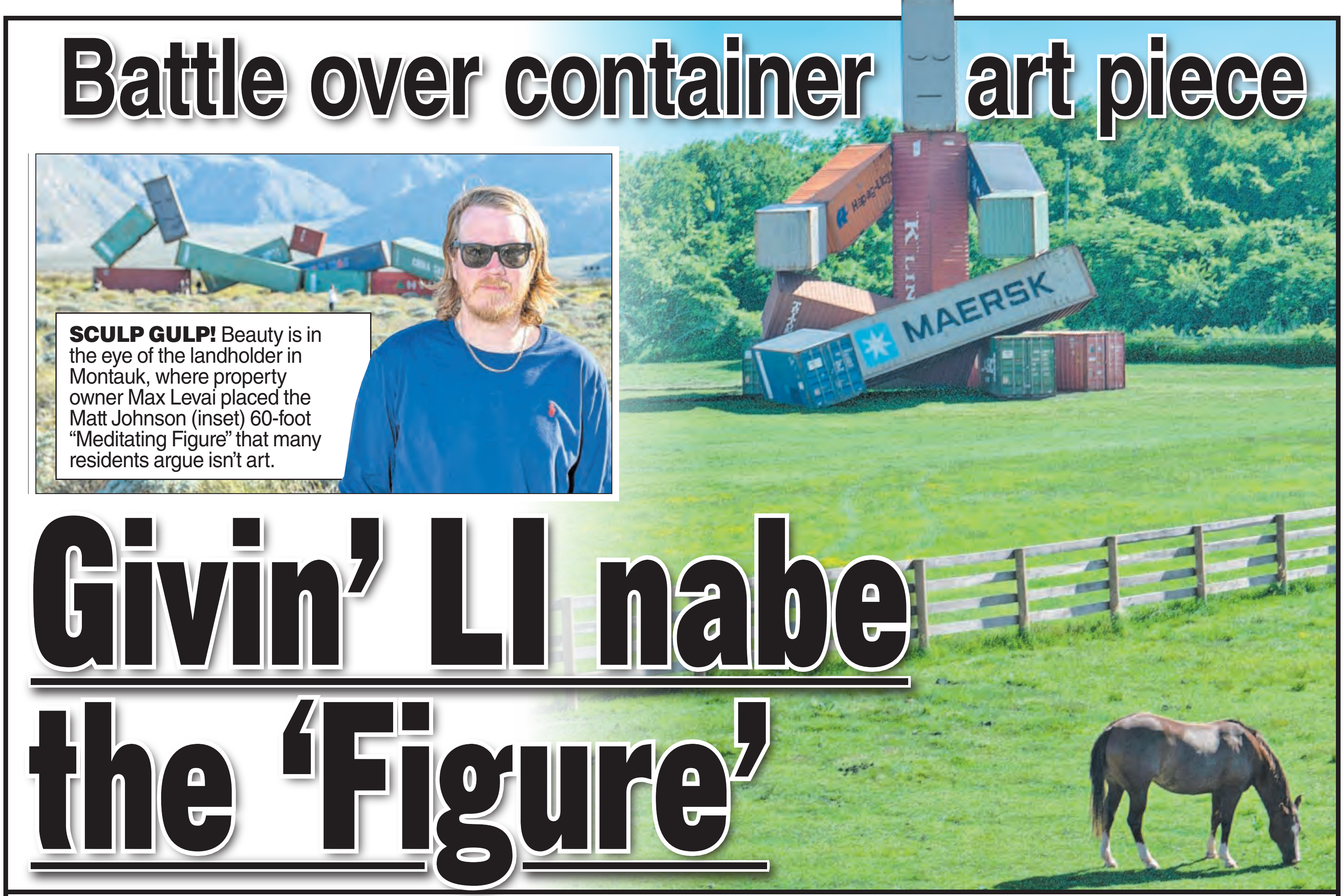
The vengeance "must certainly be carried out," Khamenei said — and called on "free people around the world" to join.

The supreme leader's rhetoric came just one day after President Trump told The Post that he has "left instructions" should the Iranian regime succeed in its ongoing efforts to try to kill him.

"1,000 Missiles are Locked and Loaded and aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran, with thousands of more to immediately follow, should the Iranian Government act on its threat, pronounced in many corners of the Globe, to assassinate, or attempt to assassinate, the sitting President of the United States of America, in this case, ME!" Trump wrote on Truth Social late Friday.

Trump also said the order has already been given to the US military for at least a one-year period to "decimate and destroy all areas of Iran" should the regime take him out. *Katherine Donlevy*

Battle over container art piece



SCULP GULP! Beauty is in the eye of the landholder in Montauk, where property owner Max Levai placed the Matt Johnson (inset) 60-foot "Meditating Figure" that many residents argue isn't art.

Givin' LI nabe the 'Figure'

By DOREE LEWAK

Ship this thing out of here!

Hamptonites are panning a towering new 60-foot sculpture made of a dozen steel shipping containers as a "grotesque" and "hideous" monstrosity — and hope a court will banish the "junkyard mess" from their posh enclave.

Los Angeles artist Matt Johnson's massive outdoor sculpture, "Meditating Figure," went up along with two other large-scale works at a Montauk art gallery called The Ranch on June 27. The 26-acre site on what was once protected farmland is private property.

"They're grotesque and ugly and out of place on Old Montauk Highway," moaned East Hampton resident Mitchel Agoos, who added that the "monstrosity" of each 40-foot-long container reminds him of the East 42nd Street building that's on the brink of collapse.

"It detracts from the gorgeous landscape. I wouldn't want this near me — it's dreck."

The behemoth is "unsightly," blasted Jennifer Jablow of Southampton. "Most of the sculptures out here enhance the area's nature — not fight it."

"We live out here for the beauty of the nature, and this feels very rough," she said.

The gallery defends the cheeky piece as a socioeconomic metaphor — a "deity built by capital and consumption; a reality of the daily contemporary experience." It described a "contemplative giant" sitting cross-legged in the lotus position with arms resting on his knees.

But the East Hampton Town board, which oversees the hamlet of Montauk, felt anything but namaste Tuesday when it voted 4 to 1 to take legal action against the posh gallery after it allegedly ignored multiple charges, including failures to obtain a building permit and certificate of occupancy, spokesman Patrick Derenze confirmed to The Post.

Is it legal?

Town attorney Jake Turner argued that the structure — "melding large pieces of metal together" — required safety checks. "If we don't take action then we are compromising the safety of the residents."

The lawyer argued that even private property has to be up to code.

"It's not a matter of what is being displayed, but how it's being displayed . . . and make sure it's legal."

But Ranch owner and art dealer Max Levai painted the town's case as flimsy.

"If I'd like to display sculptures on my property for my enjoyment, that's my right," he defiantly declared when contacted by The Post. "And if they're not structures, they don't need to be permitted."

Approval for a building permit can take up to five months, while the exhibit, called "LA Monumental," is slated to run through Nov. 15.

Levai said the town hasn't notified him of any legal action. "I want this resolved and for everybody to be happy," he said.

Montauk was cultivated by pop artist icon Andy Warhol as an artists colony half a century ago.

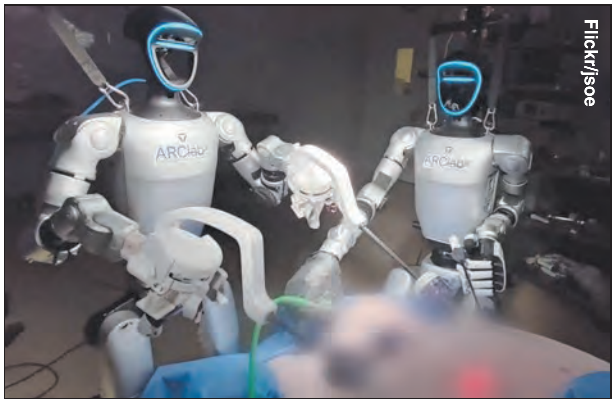
"But this exhibit really stretches the definition of art," said Water Mill resident Adam Weiss.

"They call it art? It's a friggin' junkyard mess," blasted a local critic on Facebook.

"Looks like the LIE during Friday rush hour," wrote another.

dlewak@nypost.com

Robot surgeon? Cut it out!



Flickr/jsoe

The future of surgery just scrubbed in.

In a groundbreaking medical first, robots designed to move and function like humans have performed surgery (right) on a live patient, successfully completing two laparoscopic gallbladder removals.

The breakthrough offers a peek at a future where these advanced machines could help bridge gaps in healthcare — easing surgeon shortages, lending doctors a high-tech hand in the operating room and expanding access to lifesaving procedures in underserved areas.

"This study shows that humanoid robots have a viable future in the field of surgery," Michael Yip, a faculty member at the University of California San Diego and one of the paper's senior authors, said in a press release.

"This can help address the healthcare crisis not only in the United States, but also worldwide."

McKenzie Beard

Bruce bid to bag Zo markets

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman aims to use a little-known clause in the state constitution in an effort to squash Mayor Mamdani's taxpayer-funded, $70 million city-owned grocery store scheme.

The Gift and Loan Clause prohibits municipalities from giving and lending public money or property to private entities.

"This unconstitutional subsidy poses a direct threat to long-standing, taxpaying businesses, risking widespread closures and job losses within the community," Blakeman told The Post.

The 150-year-old clause, which was created to stop local governments from diverting public funds to private railroad companies and other favored individuals and entities, also mandates municipal funds be used for a public purpose or benefit.

Mamdani's plan to open a city-owned supermarket in each of the five boroughs, run by select private companies, violates the law because it undermines private-market competitors by using public funds to keep prices down, Blakeman contends.

The mayor's office didn't return messages seeking comment. *Rich Calder*

NYPD shrink 'rap' slap

The former head psychologist of the NYPD claims he was forced out of his job in retaliation for blowing the whistle on the department's mental health practices — including being ordered to turn in confidential therapy records of police officers to disciplinary files.

Dr. Matthew James Graziano resigned as the director of the NYPD health and wellness section in April after he was accused of collecting overtime while moonlighting as a psychotherapist, and the city is now seeking reimbursement, sources told The Post. *Sonya Gugliara*

Beau of slain NY ma flees Ireland

The asylum-seeking migrant suspected of beating and suffocating New York mother Jamey Carney inside her Ireland home was in Turkey by the time police launched a manhunt for the "person of significant interest."

Ahmad Alsaqer, 28, (above with Carney) allegedly booked a flight out of Dublin and landed in Istanbul hours before Carney's 13-year-old daughter discovered her mom in the bed of their Killarney home around 1 p.m. Tuesday, the Irish Independent reported.

Alsaqer — who applied for asylum in Ireland after arriving from the Middle East in 2024 — was identified as a "person of significant interest" by Irish police. At the time, however, authorities were not aware that Alsaqer had already hopped on a bus bound for the Irish capital around 3 a.m., and boarded a flight to Turkey.

Police believe Alsaqer will try to travel through the Middle East to get back to Jordan, Extra.ie reported.

Alsaqer, who has connections in Turkey, Syria and Jordan and is fluent in Arabic, French and English, was described by the Gardai as a person of interest in the death of the 43-year-old Carney, the outlet reported.

He is believed to have been one of the last people to see Carney after spending Sunday and Monday with her.

Carney, who was found beneath a duvet with multiple severe wounds to the head, died of suffocation after neighbors reported hearing an argument coming from her home, officials said. *Nicholas McEntyre*

HOOPSTER KILLED

Denis Gostev; Kyle Mazza/Shutterstock

SUDDEN DEATH: Kinu Rochford, playing for the BK Stompers in a game at Dyckman Park (right), was shot dead Friday at Harlem's Kingdom. Police below examine the crime scene.

Shot dead at tournament in Harlem

By MARIE POHL and TINA MOORE

A former European professional basketball player and local hoops star from Brooklyn was fatally shot Friday night at a packed Harlem basketball tournament, cops told The Post.

Kinu Rochford, a standout at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, was shot in the head at around 10:30 p.m. at the Kingdome Basketball Tournament in the Martin Luther King Jr. Towers on Lenox Avenue, police said.

Two other people were wounded, cops said.

"It sounded like a firework," said witness Jessica Montgomery. "And then I heard it again and people started running."

Dispute with shooter

Rochford, 35, who was playing in the tournament, was shot while watching between games, according to cops.

The shooting stemmed from a squabble Rochford was having with another man — the nature of which was not known — a police source said.

Emergency responders gave CPR to Rochford, who lived in Crown Heights, and rushed him to Mount Sinai Morningside Hospital, but he couldn't be saved, cops said.

The two wounded, a 28-year-old man shot in the shin and a 22-year-old woman shot in the right forearm, were taken to Harlem Hospital in stable condition.

Several mourners arrived Saturday at the Rochford's Brooklyn Avenue apartment in Crown Heights carrying bouquets of flowers. A man leaving the building screamed, "Kinuuuu!"

A neighbor said Rochford was part of a set of triplets — two boys and a girl — and that his parents were from Trinidad.

He remembered "years ago" he would see Rochford's father in a nearby park watching his sons play basketball.

'My two bulls'

"Those are my two bulls," Rochford's father said of his two sons, the neighbor recalled. "They loved basketball."

Mayor Mamdani condemned the shooting, saying on X Saturday that he's "heartbroken" for Rochford's family and that "this senseless violence must stop."

The FDU Knights posted condolences on Instagram about Rochford, a standout power forward and center there from 2011 to 2013.

The 6-foot-6 Rochford played ball at James Madison HS in Brooklyn and also had a stint at now-shuttered college Globe Institute of Technology in Manhattan He began playing professionally in 2013 and won the Lithuanian National Basketball League championship in 2017 with Garonne Suduva-Mantinga.

He also played in France, Kosovo, Israel, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Ronnie Francis, who coaches the BK Stompers basketball team in Brooklyn, coached Rochford in a game Wednesday.

"I just had to tell his mother what happened," he said. "It's the hardest thing I ever had to do. She was crying and screaming for her son."

At heart of Knicks win, a dad-son bond

After the Knicks clinched their first NBA title in 53 years, guard José Alvarado Jr. invited his father to the locker room, where an epic merch drop took place.

"He gave me his whole uniform, his jersey, shorts, sneakers, headband, the champion shirt . . . He said, 'Pa, hold this. It's wet, but put it on,' " Alvarado Sr., 49, recalled.

The proud dad who raised his son in the Roberto Clemente projects on Wythe and Division avenues in Williamsburg, said he "cried like a baby."

"He's from New York and to win in New York with his team, it was just amazing," said Alvarado Sr., who wisely packed his child's schedule with sports to keep him out of trouble.

"Williamsburg now, it's not the same, but when I was growing up, it was drug-infested, gang-infested, a lot of killing," he said.

Junior's early sport of choice was football, and there were no tackle leagues for kids in Brooklyn, so his dad would take him 2½ hours by train and bus to a pee-wee league on Staten Island.

José Sr. made many other sacrifices for José Jr. over the years.

Alvarado Sr. couldn't have been more proud on the float alongside his son at the ticker-tape parade down the Canyon of Heroes — especially seeing kids' reactions.

"They were like, 'Don't touch my hat, he signed it!' That's when I was like, 'This kid could change people's lives.' It was beautiful," he said. *Angela Barbuti*

Mich. next Dem battle

Spotlight on Sen. race

By GEOFF EARLE

Michigan's primary is now the main proxy battlefield for the ideological war in the Democratic Party.

The embattled left is unleashing its top star next week in what it hopes will stop the bleeding from the damaging collapse of Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner.

"Squad" Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-Queens-Bronx) will co-host with comrade Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) rallies called "The People vs. The Powerful" July 18-19 on behalf of Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed.

AP

LENDING SUPPORT: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (left) will co-host rallies for Mich. Dem Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed (right) next weekend.

The contested race that is bringing the nation's most prominent lefties to the Midwest comes due to the retirement of Democratic two-term Sen. Gary Peters.

Left-wing Democratic Socialists of America-backed El-Sayed, 41, has been leading in the polls, but is now encountering a fierce counterattack from the party's establishment wing as Dems try to avoid another disaster like Maine.

Establishment-leaning Democrats were panicked that two rival candidates — Rep. Haley Stevens, who is backed by Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and state Sen. Mallory McMorrow — might split the vote.

'Two tectonic plates'

"They've got to win for their movement. But others want to win a Democratic Senate for their country. It's a tale of two tectonic plates. Let's see what shakes out," said one Democratic Party official who fretted about the party's leftward primary lurch.

Facing pressure, McMorrow suddenly dropped out over the July 4 weekend, without explanation, giving Stevens a clear shot at El-Sayed. Within days, AOC and Sanders announced plans of their return to the road, after drawing 30,000 to 40,000 people to stops on their 2025 "Fighting Oligarchy" tour.

Stevens, 43, turned up the heat on El-Sayed in their first debate, demanding he release his tax returns, and saying she is the only candidate in the race who is not a millionaire.

Suozzi: We don't all like DSA

After a wave of democratic socialist primary wins, a faction of Democrats is fighting back, arguing capitalism has raised more people out of poverty than any system in history and vowing to reclaim the party from the left.

"There's a lot of us that don't like what's happening with the [Democratic Socialists of America], nobody's organized," Democratic Long Island Rep. Tom Suozzi told The Post.

"Democrats have got to get back to traditional Democratic values about looking out for working men and women and trying to improve their lot in life," Suozzi said.

He co-organized a "Promise to America" pledge along with Rep. Adam Gray (D-Calif.) for lawmakers that declare "We want safety, not lawlessness . . . We're proud of America — not ashamed of America." *Geoff Earle*

'Working-class' Platner

By GABRIELLE FAHMY
and GEOFF EARLE

Maine Democrats are so desperate to replace accused rapist Graham Platner with another rugged "working-class hero" type that the left has thrown its support behind an Allagash logger despite a past that's anything but progressive.

Platner formally withdrew from the Senate race Friday after Maine woman Jenny Racicot accused him of drunkenly raping her in 2021, clearing the way for another contender to replace him on the ballot against Republican Susan Collins in the November midterms. The race is key to which party will control the Senate.

Troy Jackson, a fifth-generation logger and longtime union member who served as president of the Maine Senate from 2018-24, looks like the natural successor — at least on the surface.

"He was a logger by trade so he's got that Maine log man in him," said former political operative Kurt Bardella, who has advised members of both major parties.

Party changes

"I think you're going to start seeing a real coalescing behind Troy Jackson," he told News Nation. "If they don't get this one right, they're toast, they're cooked, they're not going to win."

Jackson, 58, campaigned with both Platner and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on the "Fighting the Oligarchy" tour at the University of Maine in May. He is a longtime Sanders ally, having been one of the few Democratic National Committee superdelegates to endorse him over Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Last week, the political organization founded by Sanders after his unsuccessful 2016 presidential run, Our Revolution, said it was throwing its "full organizing machine" behind Jackson's Senate bid, stating he "spent his life in the fight working people are asking for."

He was also endorsed by lefty heavyweight Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), who was one of Platner's top backers in Congress.

But despite sharing Platner's left-wing populism on economic issues — and having been one of his loudest cheerleaders — Jackson's political record includes a longtime conservative streak on social matters.

He first rose to political prominence in 1998 by leading a blockade against Canadian workers along the border and has been accused by critics inside the party of pushing GOP-like anti-immigrant and nationalist rhetoric.

In fact, Jackson launched his career as a Republican when he first ran for the Maine Legislature in 2000. After losing, he tried again in 2002 as an independent. In 2004, he became a Dem.

Even after that, some of his positions remained very much right of center. In 2009, he voted against same-sex marriage in the Maine Senate and has long thought abortion should be illegal except in cases of rape or incest, even when the mother's life is in danger.

'Masculine man'

In 2011, he voted for a state bill that would have declared a fetus a person and in 2013, for mandatory abortion-counseling legislation. Jackson only reversed his views in the past decade, chalking up his earlier positions to his Catholic upbringing.

Until recently, he's continued

Graham recruiter a perv?

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

One half of the champagne socialist duo who recruited and failed to properly vet accused rapist Graham Platner was reportedly booted from a previous congressional campaign due to sexual misconduct accusations from at least three women.

Yale Law-educated Daniel Moraff, 31, the grandson of one of the Toys "R" Us founders, worked on the campaign to elect far-left "Squad" Rep. Summer Lee to Congress in Pennsylvania in 2022, after leading efforts to recruit her a few years before to run in state politics in Pittsburgh.

'Predators'

But he was quickly barred from campaign events and speaking to staffers after Lee received multiple sexual harassment complaints against him, according to labor publication Payday Report.

"Birds of a feather flock together and Moraff and Platner were predators," said one of the unnamed women who claims she was sexually harassed by Moraff (inset) during Lee's 2022 campaign.

Moraff, a political strategist, was allegedly sexually aggressive with volunteers and activists, according to the report.

"He doesn't have boundaries with women, nor much of an ethical code," said one woman who complained of his sexual misconduct in Pittsburgh, adding she wasn't surprised Moraff backed Platner, who dropped out of the Maine Senate race last week after a woman accused him of raping her while he was drunk.

After Lee gave him the boot, Moraff struggled to work as a political consultant, until he figured he could build a brand recruiting unusual politicians to appeal to white working-class voters disenfranchised with the Democratic Party.

Moraff, who didn't return request for comment, and fiancée Leanne Fan were apparently so enamored with Platner after seeing a video of him in the summer of 2025, that they rushed through his background check.

ELECTION 2026

‘maybe successor’ is no progressive

BERNIE BRO HAS PAST GOP STREAK

FIGHT
OLIGARCHY
Bernie
DIRIGO

Getty Images

NEXT: Troy Jackson (left), a longtime ally of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (middle) fits the mold of a “working-class hero type” his predecessor Graham Platner possessed.

to bash Canadian workers, whining that he’s “seen countless foreign loggers cross the border every single day to work in our forests” and authoring legislation in 2022 restricting them from coming to the state although they had legal work permits.

Even after a federal judge blocked it, saying it “is not a constitutional means of addressing” concerns about foreign workers, he vowed to continue fighting.

“No other state allows this in any occupation. It’s only Maine,” he proclaimed. “I feel strongly about just suing the Department of Labor.”

After the Democrats lost Congress and the White House in the 2024 elections, the party’s desire to win back young white men led them to the poorly vetted Platner, described by GQ as a “virile, earthy working man” who could win back Trump voters. The Guardian said his aesthetic “seemed to give Democrats the blue-collar cred and performative masculinity they craved.”

“The Daily Show” poked fun at the pattern Thursday, quipping, “it seems Democratic consultants just want someone stereotypically masculine instead of, you know, someone who’s actually good.”

Dem party ‘at $take’ amid exit

Maine Democrats announced they’ll hold a convention July 25 to pick a new nominee for Senate to run in Graham Platner’s place in November, but some party members aren’t waiting until a new name emerges from the ashes of the accused rapist’s campaign.

Prominent lefties in Congress are already raising money, claiming the fate of the entire party is at stake.

“Our path to flipping the Senate runs directly through Maine. If we flip Maine, we flip the Senate,” Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) wrote in a desperate fundraising email Friday.

“But if Susan Collins wins, Trump gets two more years of unchecked power,” she pleaded, asking her base in New York to send $100,000 for an “emergency fund” for Maine by midnight.

“If we don’t flip this seat, our hopes of flipping the Senate are crushed,” added Gillibrand, who chairs the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

The leading contenders are all Democrats who lost in the party’s primary for Maine governor just last month.

Geoff Earle

‘RAISE’-ING HELL

Shootings by kids soar after gun-crime age hike

By NICK LABBAT
and TINA MOORE

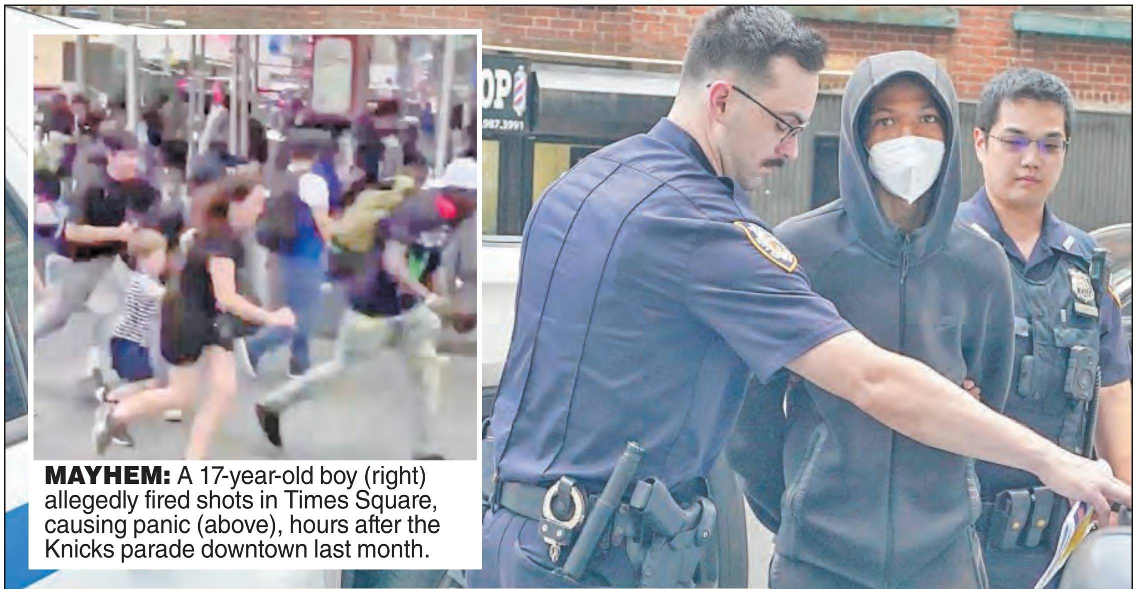
The number of kids pulling the trigger in shootings in the city has skyrocketed 133% in the nine-year span since a lefty Albany law gave young offenders carte blanche to run amok, NYPD data obtained by The Post show.

Fifty-six children have been arrested or identified as suspects in shootings so far this year, more than twice as many at the same point in 2017, when there were 24, the data shows.

The only times the number of teens arrested for shootings was higher was in 2021, when there were 57, and 2022, when there were 76, the data shows.

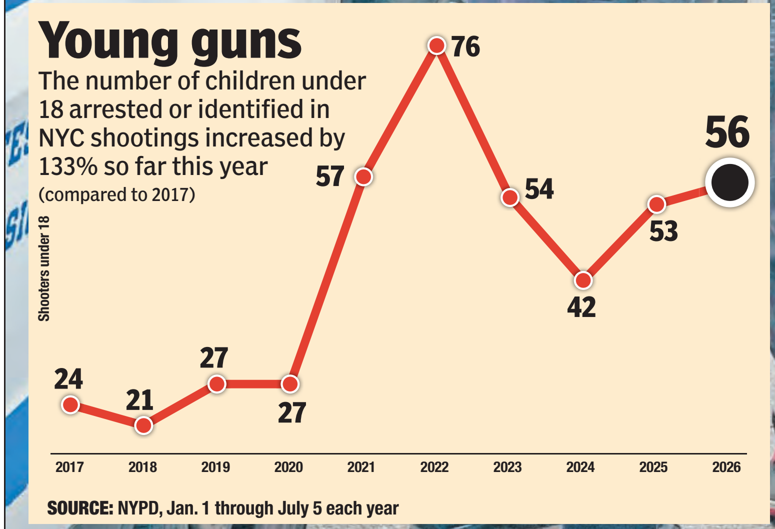
The controversial law, called Raise the Age, signed by then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2017 and later backed by Gov. Hochul, bumped up the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 and allowed suspects as old as 21 to be housed in juvenile detention facilities rather than in adult jails.

“All these people are being treated like juveniles, and they’re going to family court, and they’re probably being released,” said John Jay College of Criminal Justice adjunct professor Michael Alcazar, a former NYPD detective. “So the punishment isn’t being equated with the crime.”



Robert Miller for NY Post

MAYHEM: A 17-year-old boy (right) allegedly fired shots in Times Square, causing panic (above), hours after the Knicks parade downtown last month.



Young guns

The number of children under 18 arrested or identified in NYC shootings increased by 133% so far this year (compared to 2017)

SOURCE: NYPD, Jan. 1 through July 5 each year

Against the trend

NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced stunning statistics last week showing that the number of shootings being pinned on teens has increased to 21% from 19% at this time last year, even as overall crime has dropped.

“Unfortunately, each year the percentage of those shooting incidents that are committed by kids, people under the age of 18, continues to rise,” Tisch said.

Teen shootings have happened across all five boroughs, with one sending Times Square tourists scrambling on June 19, when a 17-year-old fired a gun in broad daylight at West 44th Street and Broadway.

The young suspect, whose name wasn’t publicly released because he’s underage, was swiftly captured by cops, and a Glock pistol was recovered, law-enforcement sources said. He was charged with attempted murder, assault and weapon possession.

Investigators were probing whether the gunfire stemmed from a bitter gang rivalry, according to the sources. It wasn’t clear if he was sent to a juvenile detention facility or released.

In another disturbing incident, a 15-year-old boy was shot and left paralyzed from the waist down on a rush-hour subway in Queens.

The victim was fighting with a 16-year-old who was with the shooter on April 27, as the train approached the 80th Street station in Ozone Park, Queens, prosecutors said. Matthew Rodriguez, 18, allegedly grabbed a firearm from the 16-year-old and fired multiple rounds, striking the teen, cops said.

Both Rodriguez and the 16-year-old were indicted on charges of attempted murder, assault and weapon possession. Rodriguez was ordered held without bail.

The 16-year-old had allegedly shot and wounded the same 15-year-old in another incident in February, police sources said. It’s not clear if he was sent to a juvenile detention center or released.

‘Innocent kids get hurt’

“He’s paralyzed from the waist down,” the victim’s mother, who only wanted to be identified as Ms. Davidson, previously told The Post. “He had eight [blood] transfusions. Both of his jaws are broken. His lung is pierced, and his liver is pierced as well.”

Gotham moms are worried about their own kids.

“I live in The Bronx, and it happens constantly,” said Myrna Rosado, 63. “Sixteen and 15-year-olds go to the park, and innocent kids get hurt. It’s insane there.”

A Brooklyn carpenter said teen shooters shouldn’t be coddled.

“I would say that when you’re 16 you still know right from wrong,” said David Ramos, 45.

“Age is not an issue for me,” he said. “If you do something horrible, you should be punished for it.”

NYPD academy losing its ‘dad’

Beloved NYPD Police Academy platoon commander Lt. Jose Caraballo, hung up his uniform Friday after a 20-year career on the force — and guiding over 20,000 recruits through the academy in the past seven years.

And he treated each one like they were his own kin.

“I kind of look at the recruits like my children,” said Caraballo (above), who spent the majority of his career as a patrolman in The Bronx, where he grew up, and in Harlem.

“Seeing these guys and girls come through and do such great things, it’s like watching my kids grow up,” said Caraballo, who has no kids but hopes to someday. “It’s just awesome to see.”

Caraballo told The Post he wanted cadets to have a memorable experience.

“I don’t even remember who my lieutenant was when I went to the police academy,” he said.

“I felt like if I’m going to be in this position, I want a lot of these young men and women to see what leadership’s supposed to look like. Every push-up I ask them to do, I do with them.”

Caraballo started out wanting to be a lawyer and attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice, but he was bored so he walked away, he said.

He then joined the NYPD Police Cadet Corps, a paid public-service apprenticeship for college students, and quickly felt like he was part of a family, he said.

Tina Moore

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Dems 'blue' it 'Tim' and again

With the Senate campaign of Maine's Graham Platner blowing up in their faces, Democrats everywhere are giving each other tearful gobs of solace and advice.

Some are comparing Platner's scandal-driven collapse and last-minute withdrawal to the 2024 presidential campaign, when a befuddled Joe Biden withdrew in early July and his vice president, Kamala Harris, was handed the nomination.

The comparison reflects deep pessimism among Dems about their chances now of winning the Maine seat held by GOP incumbent Susan Collins, which is crucial to their hopes of gaining a Senate majority.

Part of that pessimism stems from the fact that Harris continues to claim her lopsided loss to Donald Trump was largely because she got the nomination only 107 days before Election Day.

She wrote an entire book with that title, as if that alone explains her flameout. But she still refuses to accept the fact that she was a terrible candidate who refused to advance an agenda that was distinct from the failed and unpopular record she and Biden produced.

Asked what she would do differently in a slobbering appearance on "The View," she hesitated before giving the vapid response, "not a thing comes to mind."

Well, then. Platner's replacement will have even less time than Harris did, with party honchos in Maine saying they will pick a new candidate at a convention late this month.

Time is clearly important, but there's another similarity to the Harris campaign that is also highly relevant to events in Maine.

Notably, Platner is in major ways a carbon copy of Harris' disastrous choice for a running mate, Minnesota governor Tim Walz.

Tampon Tim's personality, appearance and background reflect some of the same features that led many Maine Dems to fall in love with Platner.

Both men are beefy and gruff, military veterans and blue collar by nature, making them distinct from the angry soy boys and arch feminists who are the dominant faces of a party moving further and further left.

At the same time, Walz (main photo) and Platner (inset) managed to talk the talk of the progressive activists. They looked like the Dems' idea of a Republican, but bought into the mantra of virtually unlimited immigration, higher taxes, anti-police rhetoric and the cultish fever on transgender and racial issues.

After Trump's 2024 victory, Walz, speaking on a podcast, conceded that he was selected by Harris simply to appeal to blue-collar, white male voters, who Democrats have been losing for decades.

"I was on the ticket, quite honestly, because I could code talk to white guys watching football, fixing their truck, doing that, then I could put them at ease," he said.

Although his biography and boisterous manner convinced Dems he was the Everyman they needed, the targeted demographic weren't impressed. The ticket won just 43 percent of the male vote nationwide, while Trump and JD Vance pulled in 55 percent.

In Platner's case, Maine Dems' hunger for a progressive "real man" was so overpowering that his backers were willing to overlook his huge Nazi tattoo, as if that's common among real men.

GQ Magazine, in a glowing profile that aimed to explain the appeal of his campaign, declared him "the virile, earthy working man many male politicians wish they were."

Sufficient Maine voters bought into the hype by looking past Platner's vile social media posts and the complaints of his excessive drinking and sexual misconduct, some of which he conceded.

Neither did it matter to Sen. Bernie Sanders, who endorsed him. Or to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who called him "my kinda man" despite his reportedly saying that victims of rape should "take some responsibility for themselves and not get so f--ked up they wind up having sex with someone they don't mean to?"

Victim complex

Nor was it a problem for his supporters when he reportedly wrote "I dig it" next to an online video showing Hamas terrorists murdering Israeli soldiers

None of that was enough to stop or even slow down a train that was bound for glory. Only when Politico reported credible allegations last week that he had committed sexual assault with a former girlfriend, who went public, did the dam break, with Sanders and Warren abandoning ship.

Two days later, Platner faced the music and quit the race.

Even then, he hesitated and threatened to stay on the ballot and fight it out with the party before withdrawing as the deadline approached.

"We went toe-to-toe with one of the most entrenched political systems in the history of the world, and we won," Platner said in announcing his withdrawal in a social media video. "And now they are not going to let us have it, not if it's me."

Contrition was not on his mind, as he defiantly insisted that "We're not doing it because of the allegations; we're doing it because of the structures that are being taken away from us by those in power."

See, he's a victim. Maybe that's why so many Dems liked him.

In the Trump era, victimhood is the engine of the Socialist-driven left.

Mamdani homeless ***camp*aign** of misery

The Post's report on the fetid homeless camps springing up on Manhattan's far West Side, near the Intrepid Museum, is the latest result of a heartless policy from Mayor Mamdani.

Before taking office, Mamdani vowed to reverse the policy of his predecessor, Eric Adams, saying he would no longer dismantle such camps and force occupants into shelters.

He couched his "holier than thou" argument in claims that Adams' policy lacked compassion because it did not always provide permanent housing or social services.

The first fatal results of the change came last winter, when at least 20 people froze to death on city streets. So that's compassion?

The summer casualties include West Side residents and businesses disgusted and afraid of the encampments taking over their sidewalks.

On the other hand, a man who lives in one of the filthy camps identified himself as Markus C. to The Post. He declared that "Mamdani is awesome" because there are no police sweeps.

That's not a coincidence. In an interview before he left office, Adams told me most people did not understand how much power a mayor has.

He said the NYPD would have to obey if Mamdani ordered police not to make misdemeanor arrests for public drug dealing and prostitution and not to roust homeless encampments.

At the time, City Hall said it had dismantled more than 18,000 camps during Adams' tenure.

Most removals came after residents and businesses called 311 to complain, with the city saying it received more than 100,000 such calls in Adams' last two years.

New Yorkers who are fed up now can't say they weren't warned.

One *goal* in mind: LEGOs

Helayne Seidman for the NY Post

A Ronaldo-obsessed East Village boy wanted a LEGO set of his soccer hero so badly he set up a lemonade stand to earn it.

Mason Whittaker, 5, had to have a limited-edition, $80 Cristiano Ronaldo LEGO set — part of the toy giant's FIFA World Cup collection — he spotted on Amazon.

"I mean, he cried when Portugal lost because Ronaldo is his favorite player," his mom Heather Doll told The Post.

Mason and his friends manned the stand — decorated with soccer stickers and a banner — Wednesday on East 7th Street, outside their apartment building, as dozens of thirsty neighbors and pedestrians swarmed the small table for a cup of $2 lemonade.

He earned $186 in cash and Venmo payments between sales and tips.

Trista Panagakos

'Round the World in 48 beers

He's chugging his way through the competition.

A soccer superfan in London is having a ball drinking beer during the FIFA World Cup.

Gus Hully collected beers from the 48 countries competing — and cracks one open each time a team loses.

"I'll be drinking each beer once that team has been eliminated from the competition, basically as a toast to their participation and failure at winning the tournament," Hully told BBC Sport of his ale and lager haul, which set him back $335.

Hully started sourcing the bottles and cans in 2025, and quickly came to the sobering realization that some would be challenging to find.

"Iraq was a headache to figure out, but I ended up spending £30 to buy a bottle off a guy in Poland who went to Iraq a few years ago and brought a bottle back as a souvenir," he told the outlet.

Hully may already be up for the beer collecting challenge for Euro 2028.

"That's only 24 teams so it's much easier to collect," he said.

Angela Barbuti

MYSTERY PASSING

South African star dies suddenly, 25

By MATT EHALT

South African soccer star Jayden Adams died just weeks after participating in his team's historic 2026 World Cup run, according to the South African Football Players Union.

He was 25, and the cause of death is unknown, with an investigation pending.

"Jayden had only recently represented South Africa at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, carrying the hopes of the nation with pride, courage, and distinction," the SAFPU said in a statement. "His passing is an immeasurable loss to his family, teammates, clubs, the football fraternity and country at large.

"South African football has lost a gifted player, a proud servant of the game and a young life that still had so much to offer. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Cape Town Central police have begun an investigation after finding a 25-year-old man inside a house in Schotsche Kloof at 11:06 a.m. local time Saturday, Western Cape South African Police Service spokesperson F.C. van Wyk told ESPN.

Recently lost kin

"Circumstances surrounding this incident are under investigation," the spokesperson said.

Adams (inset) started two of South Africa's three World Cup group stage games, but he didn't play in the June 28 round-of-32 loss to Canada.

South Africa's appearance in the round of 32 marked its first knockout-round appearance.

The midfielder played in the tournament with a heavy heart, with his grandmother, Marianna, dying at the age of 72 on June 17, one day before South Africa's 1-1 draw against Czechia.

Adams also made a name for himself playing for Mamelodi Sundowns and Stellenbosch FC in the South African Premiership.

He made 109 appearances and scored seven goals for Stellenbosch FC over six seasons and played in 40 games for Sundowns after joining the team in 2025.

Hiding after missed shot

Colombian forward Jáminton Campaz is in hiding after receiving death threats over a missed shot in his team's Round of 16 match against Switzerland on Tuesday.

Campaz, 26, refused to fly home with his teammates and went completely off the grid.

The threats — a chilling echo of the murder of a Colombian player more than three decades ago — began pouring in after he launched the ball over the crossbar in extra time. The game went to penalties, where Switzerland advanced 4-3.

It's unknown if Campaz remains in the US. *Adry Torres*

Putting the 'fee' in FIFA

Here's where to get the most bang for your "Cup."

Miami's Hard Rock Stadium was recently ranked the most expensive World Cup venue in North America for concessions, with meals costing fans over $100 on average, per a survey by online gaming authority Casino.org.

In total, Casino.org calculated that average match day bill has soared from $6.56 in 2014 to $38.51 in 2026 — a 487% increase — meaning fans are now shelling out six times more for the same basic stadium essentials.

"It's three times the cost of what I pay in my country," lamented Thomas Schüller, an engineer from Germany, who felt royally ripped off by a $17 beer in Toronto.

Ben Cost

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Facebook/Christine Wonsley

BEFORE THE TRAGEDY: Nolan Wells (second from right) with friends during their Fourth of July outing.

Grieving dad erupts

'Left my son to die!'

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

The friends who left Nolan Wells to die on a Fourth of July boating trip in Mississippi "have to answer to" his grieving family, his father demanded Saturday.

The football star's devastated dad, Elmore Wonsley, slammed the "excuses" his friends made claiming Wells decided to stay behind on an island — and questioned why the kids were apparently fine to leave him stranded.

"If I was in that situation, Nolan would've got on the boat. I would have not left him there," Wonsley said in an interview on CNN's "First Of All with Victor Blackwell."

"If you come with me, you're going to leave with me because if anything happens to you and I was the one that brought you there, then I would be the one to have the answer to your parents," he added.

Wonsley and his wife, Christine, have repeatedly aired their suspicions around Wells' mysterious death and a lack of "transparency" in the investigation.

The 18-year-old went missing after going on a Fourth of July boat trip with friends to remote Horn Island — and his body was recovered two days later.

A parent of one of the friends claimed Wells opted to stay on the island after their boat experienced a problem with the bilge pump, allegedly telling them that he would catch a ride with another group of pals on the island.

Christine Wonsley implied that something nefarious may have happened between Wells and his friends in the moments that led to his death.

$1M for 'feral' kids

The state of Ohio is expected to award $1 million to assist the 16 "almost feral" children rescued from a feces-filled house of horrors — as prosecutors consider putting their parents and grandparents permanently behind bars.

A state legislative panel on Monday is expected to approve a request from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth to provide the additional state cash to rural Vinton County to assist the victims in the sickening child-abuse case.

The Siders siblings range in age from 18 months to 18 years, and some have been described by authorities as "almost feral" and unable to speak. *Rich Calder, Wires*

PUTTING UP HIS DUKES

By SARA NATHAN

PRINCE Harry has had a shocking week — and now may need to rely on pals like Elton John to help pay millions of dollars in legal fees, Page Six can reveal.

The renegade royal's UK trip this week had descended into humiliating farce, but there was a bright spot on Friday: After days of whispers and briefings from Sussex sources and royal insiders, Harry finally got his wish and met King Charles and Queen Camilla with his wife, Meghan Markle, and their children.

Harry made a bolt to Highgrove, his father's country estate, where Charles and Camilla were reunited with the children for the first time in four years. Markle, 44, brought the kids over from Portugal, where they had been staying.

It was a much-needed win.

Royal insiders in the UK described this past week as "chaotic" for the Duke of Sussex, whose reps announced on Monday morning that he had accepted an invitation to stay at Buckingham Palace — only for the palace to publicly rescind the offer moments later.

Page Six is told that Harry had been dealing with his father's staff and first told them, on Saturday, he would not need a room, then changed his mind hours later. The palace said he had missed their requested deadline.

Money woes

One insider said the decision was partly operational, as there was a lack of time to bring household staff into the residence, which is currently under renovation — but admitted palace courtiers were worried it would be constitutionally problematic for the king if Harry stayed there on the same day he lost his court case against Associated Newspapers Ltd.

On Tuesday, he lost the privacy case against the publisher of the Daily Mail — and could face up to $20 million in legal fees which, sources told Page Six, he does not have.

Harry, 41, and his fellow claimants, who sued ANL over allegations of unlawful information gathering in stories about them, will have just 14 days to pay the fees after a judge finalizes costs later this month, even if they ask for the right to appeal.

"The people funding the case will likely help Harry with costs," a legal source familiar with the case said. The estate of the late Formula 1 tycoon Max Mosley, along with campaign group Hacked Off — accused of attempting to undermine press freedom — helped fund the claimants' research.

But the legal source also feels an old friend of Harry's mother, Princess Diana, might step up: "Elton John could also well help Harry out. They're extremely close."

The singer, who performed for the Harry and Markle at their 2018 wedding, has a personal fortune of $640 million, according to the UK Sunday Times Rich List.

Page Six has reached out to reps for Elton John for comment.

"Harry definitely doesn't have the money for it," revealed a well-placed insider, adding that Markle will "likely be very furious about the fees. She did not want him to [pursue the case]."

A Sussex rep declined to comment on this allegation.

It all comes at a time when the couple's earning power is in question.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex pay around $3 million a year on security, and Page Six is told they have two mortgages on their $14.5 million home in Montecito, Calif.

They have lost their exclusive production deal with Netflix, but still have a first-look deal with the streamer under their Archewell production banner. As of Friday, two scripted movies they are producing, based on the hit books "Meet Me By The Lake" and "The Wedding Date," have been listed as "in development" for over a year.

So is their Netflix feature based on British Army Major Adam Jowett's memoir "No Way Out," although, as an industry source pointed out, that project was only announced in May.

Despite reports, Page Six is told the couple is not making a documentary to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of Diana's death next year.

In March 2021, Harry told CBS that he had been forced to subsist on the money his mother left him after being cut off financially from his family in March 2020, when the Sussexes stepped down as working royals and moved to the US.

"I've got what my mum left me, and without that we would not have been able to do this," Harry said.

As Page Six reported, Markle has become the main breadwinner as Harry focuses on his philanthropy. But her lifestyle brand, As Ever, remains limited — with just 15 products sold in various incarnations. Sales figures for the private company are not available.

The loss of a big court case is precisely what they did not need.

Harry signed on to the legal action with celebrities including Elton John, Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost, the movie producer ex-wife of Jude Law — along with Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the mother of Stephen Lawrence, a black British teenager who was murdered in a racist attack in London in 1993.

They all claimed to have been victims of Mail journalists who allegedly used unlawful methods to obtain private information. Harry told the court Markle's life had been made an "absolute misery" by the British press.

However, Judge Matthew Nicklin was scathing in his decision — stating, "Suspicion, even understandable suspicion, is not proof," and finding that the stories could have originated from legitimate sources.

Court-ing trouble

The UK Times reported Thursday that the litigation insurers for Harry's case could now pull the plug on their $20 million insurance, meaning he and the other claimants could be liable for the cost.

"Associated Newspapers can chose who they proceed against [for costs], and who is liable to pay," Colin Campbell, a former costs judge who sat in the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice in London and is now a consultant at the specialist costs law firm Kain Knight, told Page Six.

"They can choose who has the most money and who will be easiest to get payment from . . . It could be Elton John, Prince Harry and Elizabeth Hurley . . . they don't have to go to each claimant separately," Knight said. However, these claimants have the right to get money back from the other people involved in the case.

It was one battle after another for Harry this week — but he finally got a win

INVICTUS AUSTRALIA
UNCONQUERED TOGETHER

HAIRY SITUATION: Prince Harry had a humiliating week — being publicly turned down by his father's staff for a guest stay at Buckingham Palace, then losing a major battle that could leave him owing millions of dollars that sources said he and wife Meghan Markle simply do not have. But things brightened Friday, when he finally was able to bring his children, Archie and Lilibet (bottom left), to see his father, King Charles (bottom right, with Queen Camilla).

Reuters; Instagram/@meghan; Getty Images

ANL has said the overall costs during the litigation amounted to £50 million, but it's up to presiding judge Nicklin to decide final costs.

Campbell pointed out that when Nicklin rules on an amount, Harry and the other claimants will face a 14-day deadline for up to 90%.

Harry held his head high he visited a children's hospital in Birmingham Thursday before joining veterans to promote the Invictus Games, which will be held in the city next year, on Friday.

Page Six had been reporting for months that Harry hoped to bring his wife and children, Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5, to his homeland during this trip.

He reportedly nixed the plans amid security concerns — he has been denied armed VIP police — but then managed to get them over from Portugal, where the three had been vacationing, for a reunion with Charles.

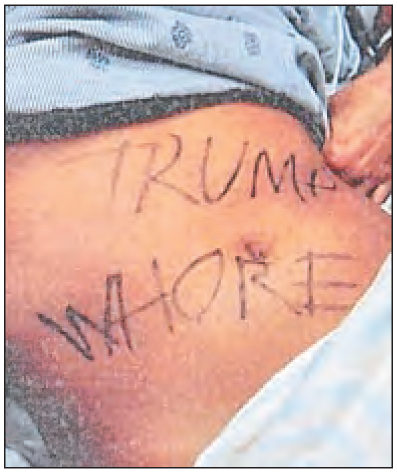
The Duke of Sussex, as expected, did not see his estranged brother, Prince William — even though both were in London this week.

As Harry and his family were having tea with Charles and Camilla at the monarchs' Highgrove House, William and wife Kate Middleton were at a polo tournament in Windsor, around an hour's drive away.

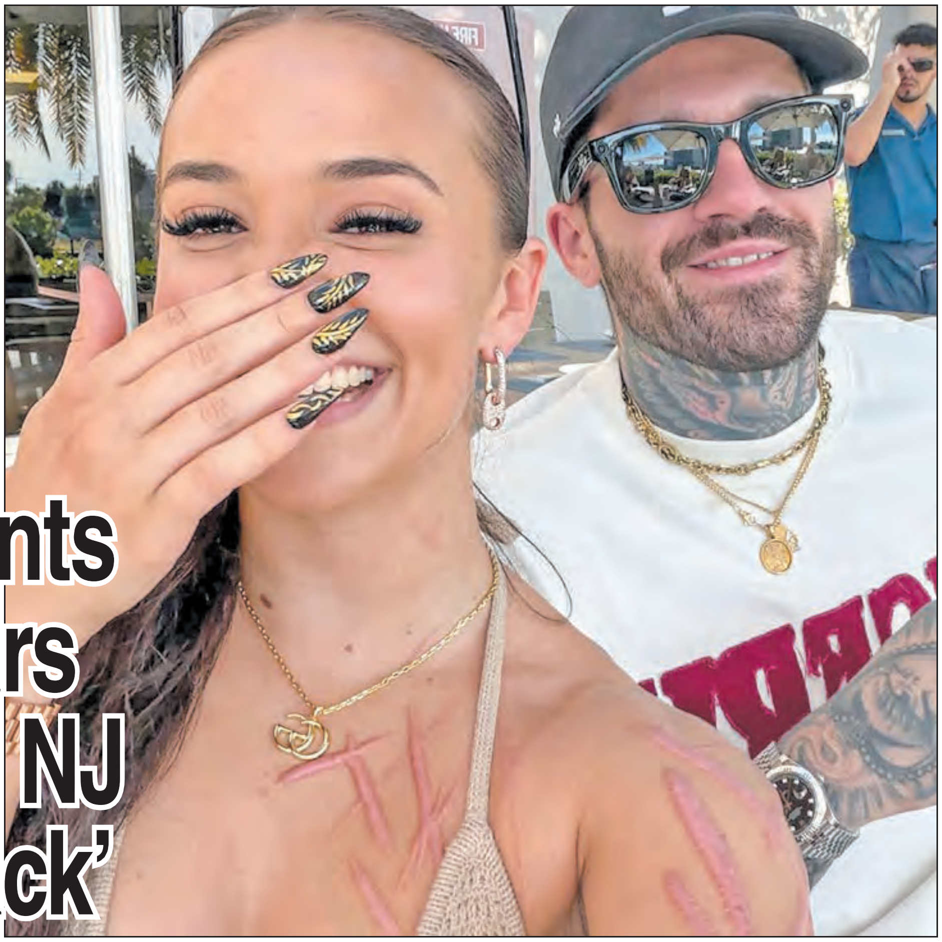
"Honestly, your kids and Meghan must be so proud of you," British TV host Alison Hammond told Harry Friday. "Do they tell you every day?"

"They don't tell me every day that they're proud of me. But yeah, I'm proud of them. They're proud of me," Harry replied. "I love my family."

LAUGHING IT UP



BACK IN VIEW: Natalie Greene, who claimed she had "Trump whore" written across her stomach in an attack, showed off scars all over her body while standing next to an unnamed man (right).



FaceBook / Natalie Greene

Flaunts scars from NJ 'attack'

By SONYA GUGLIARA

The unhinged ex-GOP aide who claimed she had been viciously attacked and labeled "Trump whore," but who authorities say staged the assault and hired a fetish artist to carve her up, showed off her scars in a new photo, along with a heavily tattooed mystery man.

Natalie Greene, 26, the Ocean City, NJ, woman accused of faking a gruesome politically driven assault while working for Republican Rep. Jeff Van Drew, shared a glimpse into her life for the first time since the scandal broke nearly a year ago.

She updated her Facebook profile picture on the Fourth of July to a smiling selfie of herself and the new pal.

She wore a knitted tank top, exposing multiple thick, pink scars across her shoulder, chest and neck.

Her dark hair was slicked back into a low ponytail, and her manicured hand covered her mouth as she laughed.

A man wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap with tattoos up his neck and arm smiled next to her.

Greene, a Masarati-driving ex-Rutgers law student, was charged with conspiracy to falsely report a violent attack and giving false statements to law enforcement after claiming she was repeatedly slashed by three masked gunmen in a park because she worked for Van Drew, a pol who had switched from Democrat to Republican in 2020.

Dozens of slashes

Authorities found Greene on the ground with her hands and ankles zip-tied on a trail at a nature preserve in Egg Harbor Township on the night of July 23, 2025. She had dozens of bloody surgical-like slashes across her back, shoulder, chest and face. The words "Trump whore" were written across her stomach in black marker.

But the attack was nothing but a hoax, according to the Department of Justice, which said Greene hired a Pennsylvania-based "scarification" fetish artist to cut her up. Detectives even discovered a reference photo that Greene showed the artist — and her cuts matched the image exactly, investigators said.

Greene was granted supervised release in January as she awaits trial.

Childhood campmate Kristin Haughton James welcomed her into her Florida home and has been acting as her custodian.

Before moving in with Haughton James, Greene had already cycled through two other guardians — including her mother — and had been ordered to attend inpatient treatment.

But the arraignment quickly descended into a nightmare, Haughton James revealed.

"I have never met chaos incarnate until I met this person," she told NJ.com. "Lives for the drama — wants everything to be about her.

"She just feeds off attention."

Kicked her out

She claimed Greene left her home a wreck, tried to get her evicted and falsely told cops that she was dealing drugs and threatened her with a gun.

Haughton James said she kicked her out in March. It is unclear where Greene is currently living.

Haughton James, Greene and Greene's attorney did not return messages seeking comment.

Woman delivers in 'Fast' lane

It was a special delivery — from the highway.

A second-time mother gave birth to a boy on the New Jersey Turnpike last week with the help of her husband, a state trooper and a cellphone charger.

Kristen Fast went into labor four days early on July 2, but before the expectant parents could make it to the hospital, their baby boy was born on the side of the highway in Secaucus (above), ABC7 reported.

"The doula said, 'Pull over, hang up, call 911.' So we did that. We called 911. The operator started walking him through what to do," Fast told the outlet.

"Next thing I know, I get in the back seat, and we're making sure she's comfortable, and I look down, and that baby is ready to go," Fast's husband, Alex, said.

New Jersey State Trooper Freddie Guacamaya responded to the 911 call and with the help of an iPhone charging cord — the only instrument on-hand with which to clamp the umbilical cord — Kristen Fast delivered a healthy baby boy.

Kristen, Alex and their newborn son, named Archer, were transported to Hackensack University Medical Center.

Baby Archer's exact birthplace was recorded accurately as the New Jersey Turnpike I-95, mile marker 113.

"Archer's healthy. He's thriving. He's a Jersey boy through and through," Kristen said.

"I don't think you get more Jersey than being born on the New Jersey Turnpike." *Ella Morrison*

Stadium founder's fam sues US Open

The United States Tennis Association has no love for the family of the man who created the National Tennis Center, erasing his legacy from the famed sports complex in Queens while squeezing his heirs for nearly half a million dollars, a federal lawsuit claims.

The children of William "Slew" Hester claim the USTA has violated a decades-old agreement by demolishing their box in Arthur Ashe Stadium and offering "inferior" seats to the US Open — and only if they pay $460,000. Hester's surviving children, Bill and Kathryn, told The Post.

Slew Hester is credited with convincing city officials in the 1970s to build what became what was then called Louis Armstrong Stadium to host the open, ripping the competition from the staid, private West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills.

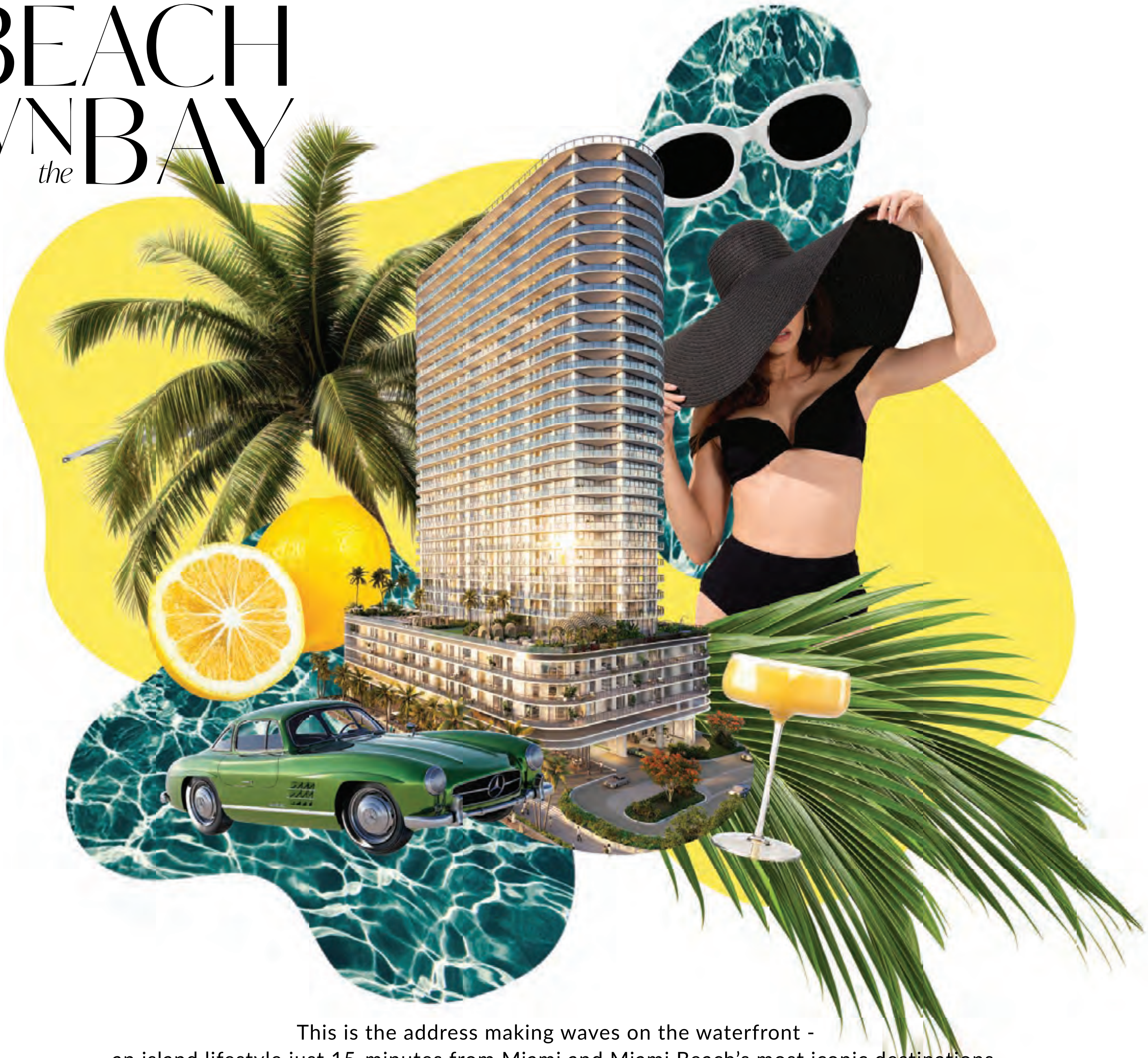
The USTA rewarded Hester with lifetime box seats for him and his heirs among other perks, the suit says.

But after Hester's death in 1993, the USTA's "attitude toward the Hester family changed," they alleged in Manhattan court papers.

The USTA said it does not comment on pending litigation, but said it "has fulfilled its commitment."

Kathianne Boniello

Forget THE BEACH OWN the BAY



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A 'hose' by any other name

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THE "Tinder Swindler" has finally escaped the legal battles stemming from his adventures in online dating, it seems.

Israeli Shimon Hayut changed his name to **Simon Leviev** and claimed to be part of a billionaire diamond-trading family, with several women claiming he used the guise to seduce and con them out of buckets of cash.

In 2022, the real Leviev family sued Simon in their native Israel.

Now Page Six has learned that Simon and the Levievs agreed to settle their dispute.

According to translated court papers seen by Page Six, the terms of the deal are that Simon will "undertake not to present [himself], directly or indirectly, as [a member] of the Leviev family or as being affiliated with the Leviev family or its companies, including LLD Diamonds USA."

In return, the Levievs will drop the rest of their suit.

The matter was resolved without any determination of guilt.

It's the last of the legal challenges facing Simon. He served 2½ years in a Finnish prison after he was found guilty of defrauding the women, a tale that was told in the hit Netflix documentary, "The Tinder Swindler."

He also served 15 months in an Israeli prison after being convicted of four fraud charges, but was released after five months. On Friday, Simon framed the Leviev settlement as a vindication.

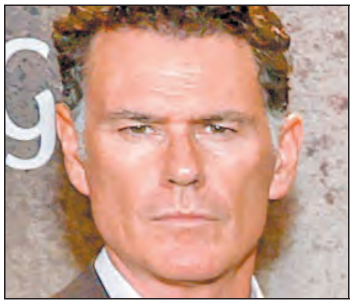
"If they had evidence like that, I would be sitting behind bars right now," he told Page Six. "I'm not. I'm sitting in the most expensive hotel in Brazil."

His lawyer also said extradition proceedings in Germany have been closed and that there are no remaining criminal cases against him in Europe.

Leviev was born in Israel but reportedly moved to Brooklyn with his family at the age of 15.

A-hem, go change!

TALK about skirting the rules. Greenwich Village hot spot People's had a pop-up in London during Wimbledon, and the Brits were willing to go to any lengths to get in — specifically, knee-lengths. We're told that when one aspiring partygoer showed up in shorts to its five-night residency at Nellie's at Simpson's in the Strand, he really got cut down to size. Doorman **Frankie Carattini**, dubbed NYC's pickiest by the New Yorker, told him shorts were a no-no . . . but a skirt would be fine. So the guest dropped to the pavement outside the club, sliced his shorts into a skirt on the spot and strolled right in.



Hot potato issue

WHAT do the Italians know about food anyway? They've got a thing or two to learn from . . . the Irish? This according to actor **Vincent Walsh**. He told us in a recent interview he's half Irish and half Italian — and that "there are such similarities between" them. When we suggested they don't extend to cuisine, Walsh (above) agreed. "The Italians don't do a good spice bag like we do," he said. "You have to look it up. It's so good." Turns out it's a salty potpourri of fries, chicken, peppers and Chinese spices, a topper to a night in the pub. Coming to La Piazza di Santa Maria soon!

WireImage

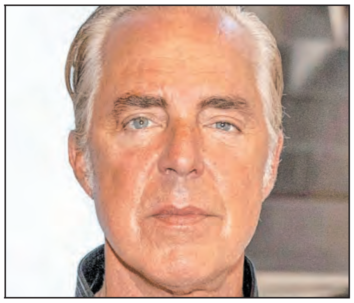
It's "Emily" in London! "Emily in Paris" star Lily Collins arrives at the Royal Box at Wimbledon Saturday for the women's singles final.

Walking with Sass

WE hear that legendary editor **Jane Pratt** headlined a special day for students at Columbia University. We're told that a group from the Ivy's famed journalism school spent the day visiting a rare complete archive of Pratt's beloved Sassy magazine, published between 1988 and 1996, at adjoining Barnard College. We're told that when they returned to Columbia, Pratt addressed the group, plus more students. We're told she emphasized the importance of building a trusted brand, talked about her new publication, Another Jane Pratt Thing, and got a standing ovation. She stayed for more than an hour after the Q&A, chatting with students. We've reported she has a memoir, "It Happened to Me," in the works.

We hear

THAT the Paley Center for Media is hosting an event spotlighting Jewish life, culture, creativity and resilience: "Beyond the Headlines: Jewish Life in America Today" . . . THAT Mouraux Durand-Ruel Gallery will open this fall in Chelsea to coincide with the Armory Show.



Blow their money

IS that what they mean by "a line of credit"? **Titus Welliver** plays a cop in "The Westies," a new show about the Hell's Kitchen gang that trafficked in cocaine. But he tells us he never dabbled in the drug. In fact, Welliver (above) said a prodigious amount of coke was wasted on him in the '80s. "I worked as a bartender and security in nightclubs. People were always trying to tip me in cocaine, and I was like, 'I don't do it, just keep it. If you can't afford to tip me, that's all right,'" he said at the premiere of the MGM+ show. But he did know some of the Westies. "I met both [convicted killers] **Mickey Featherstone** and **Jimmy Coonan** and some of the other guys. I was in their orbit, meaning that I frequented bars and places that they did, so I would see them around quite a bit," he said.

Mel's family grows by 'half'

MELISSA Gilbert tells Page Six she's feeling a bit stunned after learning that she has four half-brothers on her biological mother's side. "It's wild," the adopted star told PageSix.com's **Nicki Gostin** about the recent discovery. "Nothing like what I thought I knew." Earlier in the week, the "Little House on the Prairie" alum, 62, announced the revelation on Instagram Stories, saying, "A few weeks ago I connected, through an app with my fifth biological cousin on my birth mother's side," Gilbert wrote. "His intrepid research led me to my biological siblings on my birth mother's side. . . . I found out I have three: **Matt**, **Laird**, and Mark (who unfortunately has passed away)," she wrote, calling her older brothers "fantastic human beings. . . . Matt and I are becoming especially close," Gilbert said. "The true story of our adoptions is a jaw dropper which we will be sharing soon." She added, "I've always said that I don't have a family tree, I have a family shrub. It's now more of a climbing rose vine. Covering an enormous wall with its many different shapes and colored blooms." She says her adoptive mother, **Barbara Crane**, and sister, "Roseanne" star **Sara Gilbert**, have been "remarkably supportive" while she has researched her family tree.

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Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD

432 Park Ave.

Evan Joseph, Christopher Sadowski

A lot of luxe for a lot less

A MASSIVE apartment at 432 Park Ave. is in contract for far less than its asking price, and the deal is slated to reset sales in the building.

The unit, 94A, last asked $25.75 million — down from its $33 million ask in 2024. The seller purchased the half-floor unit for $31.5 million in 2019. The buyer and final price are not yet known, but it will be for less than $25 million.

"This [closing] will reset what the market is for the building," said listing broker **Marc Riedel**, of Serhant, who shares the listing with Serhant's **Jordyn Nusynowitz**. "We had multiple offers. This is where the market is."

To that end, a half-floor unit on the 66th story just slashed $3.5 million off its asking price. The four-bedroom unit, which was asking $32.5 million in 2020, now asks $22.99 million with listing brokers **Fredrik Eklund** and **John Gomes** of Douglas Elliman.

Built in 2015, the building was designed by the late architect Rafael Viñoly, who died in 2023.

Since then, some prices have been falling. That's especially since an alarming report last fall, warning that concrete cracks could lead to "raining chunks of concrete" and render the building uninhabitable unless it launched a $160 million renovation.

Riedel added that repairs to the building's facade will begin this month — with owners footing the bill. It will take three to four years to complete, he said, adding that owners hope the courts will force the developer to ultimately pay the repair costs.

Residents have also complained about the supertall's swaying and groaning, leaks, power outages and elevator problems, as well as high-priced required monthly minimums in the building's private restaurant.

But Riedel said that many of the complaints — like the sound of trash crashing down the chutes at harrowing speeds — have been fixed; and that the restaurant cost of $15,000 a year per unit, is reasonable.

The facade, he said, is the last big problem that needs to be fixed.

At 3,952 square feet, the unit comes with three bedrooms and 3.5 baths, as well as high ceilings and design details like a chef's kitchen and a corner great room with Central Park and city skyline views.

Riedel also said the seller had a signed contract with a renter for $85,000 a month, a building record for a half-floor dwelling, but then found a buyer before the renter moved in.

There are currently 12 units on the market including this in-contract spread and a full-floor unit on the 64th floor asking $90 million. In addition, it appears that six units are still owned by the sponsor.

"It looks like a lot of people want to get out," said Riedel, who also has other listings in the building, including one that is off-market. "People don't want to take the loss but the reality is that just like a number of Billionaires' Row buildings, prices have come down.

He added that he believes the newer Billionaires' Row buildings will also see prices drop, in part because there is "continued new product" on the market.

"432 Park isn't new any more. It will take time for other buildings that are newer to see their prices come down," he added.

Real Shot Studios

The Rubin effect

MICHAEL Rubin's famed annual White Party had some unexpected consequences for some top Hamptons brokers.

At least four guests at the event liked his Dune Road home so much that they booked appointments to see another oceanfront property on the "just four doors down" from Rubin (above) sources said.

That residence stands at 15 Dune Road in Bridgehampton.

The estate, which sits on 1.91 acres, had previously been on the market asking $990,000 for four weeks or $495,000 for two weeks.

It was built by the late Ara Arslanian, a second-generation international diamond dealer who was also a collector and patron to some top New York artists in the 1980s.

He was an early supporter of Jean-Michel Basquiat, and close to Keith Haring and Andy Warhol.

The modern three-story home is 7,059 square feet and comes with a three-story glass elevator.

Built in 2018, it was designed by Mark C. Matthews Architecture in collaboration with **Francis D'Haene** of D'Apostrophe Design — and boasts "sunrises over the ocean and sunsets over Mecox Bay," according to the listing.

The modern property comes with seven bedrooms, seven baths and two powder rooms. Outside, there's a deck, a pool and a private path to the beach.

The home displayed part of Arslanian's vast art collection and is protected by Arcadia glass and UV-protected windows.

So Marvel-ous!

A PALM Beach townhouse that upped its price by $6 million after **Zohran Mamdani** won the New York City mayoral election last fall — seizing on an exodus — has sold for $17 million.

The seller is ex-Marvel CEO **Isaac "Ike" Perlmutter**.

The oceanfront townhouse ultimately sold for far less than the Mamdani-inspired price hike to $24.95 million.

But it still reveals the strength of the South Florida market, which is benefiting from 1-percenters fleeing Mamdani and a pied-à-terre tax in New York, as well those abandoning a proposed billionaires' tax in California, said listing broker **Margit Brandt**, of Premier Estate Properties.

The mystery buyer who paid in cash was represented by **Ronnie Garcia**, also of Premier Estate Properties.

Perlmutter bought the townhouse with his wife **Laura** (both above) for $10 million in April 2023.

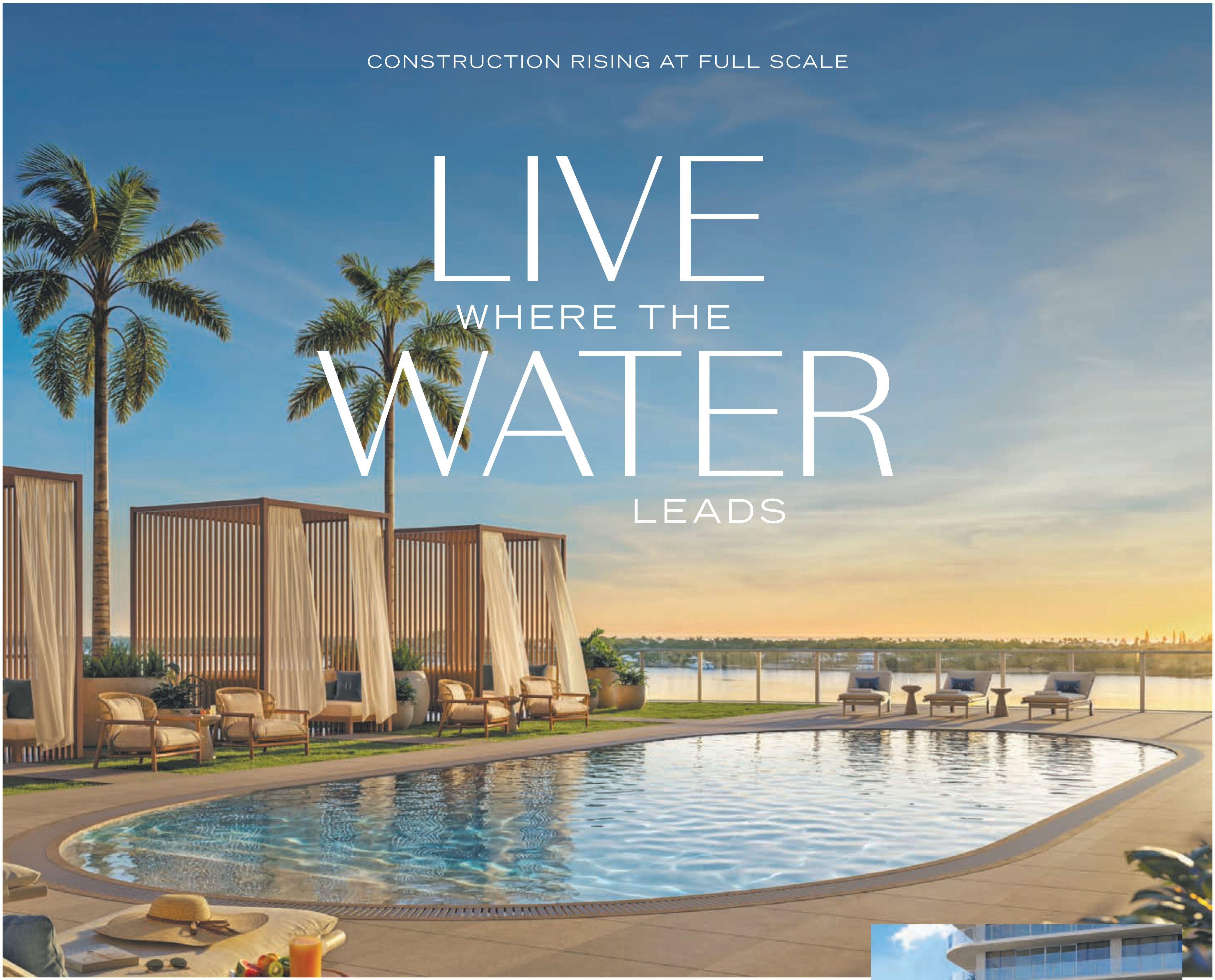
The couple listed it eight months later for more than double what they paid — $21 million. By 2025, it was asking $18.95 million.

Built in 1981, the renovated property comes with five bedrooms and 5.5 baths.

Inside, it features a chef's kitchen with double-height ceilings, a formal living room and ocean views.

Amenities for residents include private beach access, tennis courts, a gym, a yoga studio and a conference room, plus a pool and cabanas.

Daniel Petroni Provided by Margit Brandt of



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‘Boot Camp’ Games

By GEOFF EARLE

Calling all drill seekers!

The Patriot Games — President Trump’s televised teen athletic competition next month in Ohio — will feature a “military-inspired boot camp circuit,” according to nationwide recruitment emails reviewed by The Post.

The games will also feature aspects of classic American sports — football, basketball, soccer and track — with made-for-TV twists, and $250,000 in college scholarship money on the line during the Aug. 9-11 spectacle to celebrate the nation’s 250th anniversary.

The event, held at Spire Academy, a boarding school in Geneva, Ohio — a battleground state that Trump carried — “will include rounds that test excellence in skillsets of beloved American sports,” one of the emails reads.

High school students ages 14-17 from around the country will be selected to compete in individual and team challenges testing strength, endurance, agility and strategy, according to the emails.

“It’s kind of like the ‘Ninja Warrior’ games,” actor Dean Cain, who played Superman in the 1990s TV series “Lois & Clark,” told The Post. Cain once competed on “American Gladiators” and has been promoting the event online.

“It’s just a great opportunity for young people,” said Cain.

Trump announced the games in 2025, long before he hosted a UFC fight on the South Lawn of the White House. The sports fan-in-chief — who visited the Super Bowl and the NBA Finals — is set to be there.

High school students are being invited to apply and submit video statements, and the administration will select the winners — drawing some needling online from critics who compare the event to “The Hunger Games” movies.

Cain smacked down such criticisms.

“We’re not going to kill anybody. People are actually asking to be there. We don’t ask for tribute,” he quipped. “We’re encouraging people to be healthy, to be fit, to compete and to represent your state and your country well.”

Don’s ‘Schiff’ riff

It was a close encounter of the Schiff kind.

President Trump made an out-of-this-world gibe when he was allegedly briefed on alien “hybrids” living among humans, a congressman claimed last week.

“Trump was, during a briefing, told that there are hybrids and that there’s hybrids that potentially live among us,” Rep. Eric Burlison (R-Mo.) claimed on the American Alchemy podcast, referring to creatures that are supposedly crossbred between extraterrestrials and humans. “Trump’s response was ‘You mean like Adam Schiff?’ ” said Burlison, who heard of the joke from those with knowledge of the meeting.

“I don’t know if it’s fiction or not,” Burlison said, apparently referring to the joke. “I could totally believe that he would say something like that.”

As a California congressman, Schiff, now a senator, led the first impeachment effort against Trump in 2020. He also served on the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot. *Shane Galvin*

Singer gets real about MADONNA & CHILD

MOMMY DEAREST: Madonna duets with daughter Lola, 29, on “The Test” — and sources say the title reflects their relationship.

Instagram, Getty Images (2), Ciccone Vineyard & Winery, Eric Robert, Madonna

what really strained relationships

By NICOLE LAMPERT

AT NEARLY 68, Madonna looks like she will elbow past Gen-Z's Olivia Rodrigo and Ella Langley to have the #1 Billboard album this coming week.

She did it by getting more personal than ever for “Confessions on a Dance Floor II,” with songs believed to be about her late brother, stepmother and ex-husband Sean Penn — who Madonna sings was “threatened by” her.

A friend of Madonna told Page Six that, while that last one was a “surprise,” the actor is still “the love of her life.”

There's also a duet with her 29-year-old daughter Lola (née Lourdes) Leon, who approached the superstar about writing a song together ”as a way to heal our relationship,” Madonna recently said.

“There have been moments when Madonna and Lola didn't speak,” a friend of Madonna told Page Six. “Lola always felt that Madonna had been quite tough on her while growing up, unnecessarily so.”

Madonna “also felt guilty about bringing Lola up in a world of unimaginable fame and about how that had an impact on her life.

In the song, Madonna calls her daughter “little star” — the same affectionate name she called her by on her “Ray of Light” album in 1998, when Lola was two years old.

“You didn't ask for all the flashing lights/ I didn't think of how it could disturb/ Or how it hurt/ I wish I knew/ The pain I've caused,” she sings.

“She understands how a child of someone so famous would struggle with their own identity and she has felt guilty about that,” the friend said. “The distance came partly because Lola didn't want to be seen as a nepo baby.”

‘Struggled to just be’

Lola was born to Madonna and Carlos Leon, a fitness trainer the singer dated from 1994 to 1997. Stories have circulated for years about how strict the singer is with her six children (including sons Rocco Ritchie, 25, and David Banda, 20, adopted with ex-husband and film director Guy Ritchie; and adopted daughters Mercy James, 20, and Stella and Estere, both 13).

She's been said to keep them on a macrobiotic diet — no sweets, dairy or preservatives — and TV is banned. Page Six once reported that Lola got an iPhone only after turning 15 and that if any of their clothing was left on the floor, the items would be taken away.

“I think my mom saw all these other kids of famous people, and she was like, ‘My kids are not going to be like this,’ ” Lola told Interview magazine. “My mom is such a control freak, and she has controlled me my whole life. I needed to be completely independent from her as soon as I graduated high school.”

That meant moving to Bushwick, Brooklyn, after growing up between London and Manhattan — where she graduated from LaGuardia HS and dated a pre-fame Timothée Chalamet — and trying to start her own music career.

Lola was more recently involved with Jonathan Puglia, a photographer and skateboarder, but is said to be single now.

As Lolahol, she released a handful of dance-pop singles in 2022 and 2023.

“Madonna always felt that Lola didn't want to be associated with her when it came to music, so she was really touched when Lola suggested it,” the friend said. “Madonna and Lola have sometimes struggled to just be, as there is quite a lot of pain there but they are doing really well thanks to creating this song together.”

Page Six is told that the singer was in a nostalgic mood when she wrote the album. While Madonna would like to be seen as ageless, she also had a life-or-death scare in 2023 with a bacterial infection that led to sepsis and left her in a coma for four days.

For the last few years, she had been working on a script about her life, with actress Julia Garner set to play her. But the production was scrapped amid a reported budget disagreement with Universal Pictures.

Madonna then attempted to turn her life story into a series for Netflix. When that stalled, she used her memories for a new creative project.

The singer worked with producer Stuart Price on the 2005 album “Confessions on a Dance Floor.” In 2024, she visited his home in London to see if the old magic was there.

At the time, her brother Christopher Ciccone was dying of pancreatic cancer and her stepmother, Joan, had just passed away.

Madonna recently told Interview that “a lot of the songs here are confessional. I feel like my brain is tuned into memory and how it's all connected and where it has brought me.”

She sings on “Fragile”: “When I'm alone/ I see you standing there/ I see inside your soul/ And I feel whole.” It is believed to be about Christopher, who had once been her closest ally and confidant, even working with her as a choreographer and dancer. But the two had fallen out — with Christopher saying his sister held grudges — in part over his 2008 book, in which he called Penn “intense,” Carlos Leon “thick” and Guy Ritchie “a poser.”

“I didn't speak to him for years, years and years,” Madonna told podcaster Jay Shetty in 2025. “It was him being ill and reaching out to me and saying, ‘I need your help,’ and me having that moment like, ‘Am I going to help my enemy?’ That's how it felt.”

Likewise, she had a rocky relationship with Joan, who married Madonna's widowed father, Tony Ciccone, when the singer was 8 years old.

“I didn't accept my stepmother when I was growing up,” she once told Larry King.

Joan died after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. In the song “Betrayal,” Madonna sings: “When the book of love is written, I am the writer/ And by the last page, you will not be mentioned ... You'll never take my mother's place.”

‘Story of a survivor’

And then there is Penn. The two had a turbulent marriage from 1985 to 1989, including the actor's scuffles with paparazzi and long-denied rumors that he had tied up her and held her hostage — leading to a SWAT team storming his house, according to Penn.

She drops clues that the song “Bizarre” is about him — “Movie star, deep blue eyes/ In Hollywood, we're a perfect prize/ He drove way too fast/ Shelby Cobra, wasn't meant to last” alludes to a sports car she was reportedly gifted Penn when they wed.

“She sees Sean as the love of her life and she is happy to put that out there,” the friend said.

For the past two years, she has been involved with soccer coach Akeem Morris, 30, but neither is thinking about marriage.

“She knows Akeem might want to have kids one day, and she's ruled out adopting more, so she knows there may be a time limit,” the friend said.

These days, Madonna is primarily based in London, where she once lived with ex-husband Guy Ritchie.

Up next, she is reportedly making plans for a concert tour — although friends and family, concerned about how hard she worked herself last time, which helped lead to her illness, have admitted they hope she doesn't.

Like many others who are officially what Social Security considers “full retirement age,” the singer is suffering with a bad knee. The cartilage in her left leg has gone, and it has meant that she has to curb her dancing.

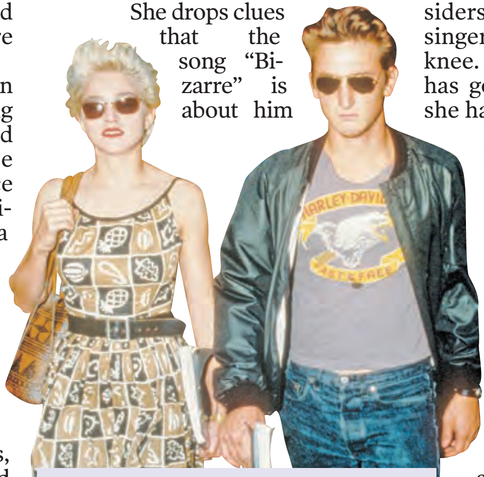
Instead, she keeps fit on a Peloton while also biking incognito in London's parks.

“Mentally, she is totally on the ball but she just wishes that her body would keep up,” said her friend. “But she has absolutely loved the response to the album. She sees what she's done as the story of a survivor, and it's incredible how long she has survived at the top of the music business. The very top.”

FAMILY FEUDS: On her new album,” Madonna gets candid about people from her past — including her late stepmother Joan (left, with Madonna's father, Tony Ciccone) and late brother Christopher Ciccone. She had tense relationships with both before their 2024 deaths.

MADONNA
CONFESSIONS II

POP TOP: ”Confessions on a Dance Floor Part II” is expected to top the charts.



‘LOVE OF HER LIFE’: Ex-hubby Sean Penn also makes the lyrics.

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JEFF FOR DON

By GEOFF EARLE

A full-size Thomas Jefferson is heading back to the White House he left in 1809.

George Lundeen, the same artist who sculpted a defiant bronze of Trump that stands at the president's golf course in West Palm Beach, Fla., says he recently shipped a seated Thomas Jefferson to the building where the nation's third president served two terms.

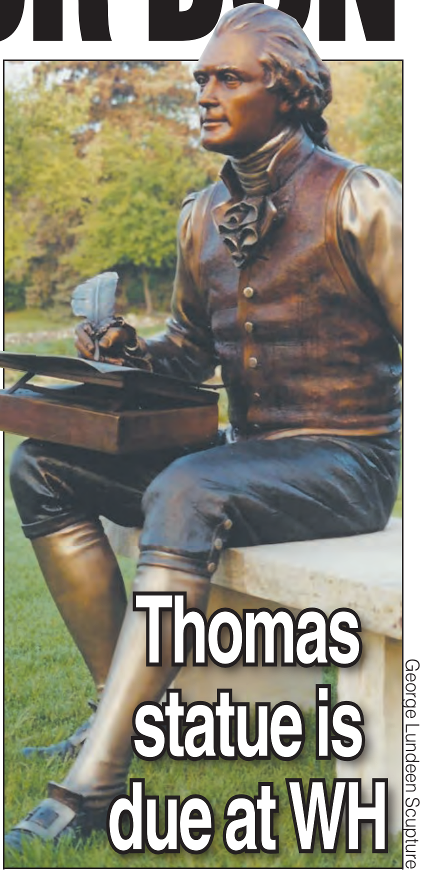
It arrived for off-campus security checks Monday, The Post has learned.

Lundeen, 77, says he was told Trump wants it for the Rose Garden — where the president has already installed a George Washington sculpture and a picture of Joe Biden's auto pen as part of a "walk of fame."

"He's going to put it in the frigging Rose Garden," said an elated Steven C. Barber, the filmmaker who arranged it after helping facilitate sculptures honoring the Apollo 11 astronauts and other historic figures.

The White House declined to confirm where the statue (right) might go. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826 at the age of 83.

In the sculpture, the primary author of the Declaration of Independence — with edits by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin — is depicted toiling over his draft of the document. Its adoption by the Continental Congress is being honored at the nation's 250th celebrations Saturday.



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HOLLYWOOD'S COVERT AI RACE

Studios are using the tech, but don't want to admit it

Getty Images for Tribeca Festival; Getty Images (2)

PIONEERS: Ben Affleck, Martin Scorsese and Matthew McConaughey are all involved in AI.

By MICHAEL KAPLAN

Hollywood is secretly full throttle on Artificial Intelligence, creating a "new space race" to generate the first (mostly) AI blockbuster.

The film industry is notoriously slow to adopt change. Some directors refuse to swap 35mm film for digital, others feel using CGI or blue screen "compromises their art."

Therefore, AI has officially been met with extreme skepticism by filmmakers. However — as is always the way in two-faced, back-biting, cutthroat Hollywood — that also means behind the scenes every studio, filmmaker and screenwriter worth their salt are desperately trying to harness its power to push the boundaries and create something new to wow audiences with.

"The space-race was about being first, but it was also about inspiring the world that we should keep competing and keep investing [in the technology]. Bigger than being first, which is fleeting, is inspiring the world," Bryn Mooser, who has two Academy Award nominations for documentary shorts, told The Post.

Although completely AI generated movies have been made, so far they have tended to be low-budget or online-only affairs created by ambitious and talented people, but unlikely to score a spot at your local multiplex anytime soon.

However, household names are testing the waters and teasing their involvement with AI, which sources say probably goes much further than they are letting on.

In 2025, legendary director Martin Scorsese aligned with the German AI company Black Forest Labs to use its technology, announcing it would be part of pre-production and creating storyboards.

"I'm interested in the intersection of technology and storytelling, and seeing how that can push the bounds of creativity to create deeper and richer experiences for audiences," he somewhat cryptically told the New York Times.

Traditionalists were outraged that the man who previously labored over hand-drawn boards for movies like "Raging Bull," painstakingly sketching boxing fight scenes so their ragged lines conveyed the energy he wanted from star Robert De Niro, would eschew his natural talents to use technology.

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TESTER: Director Darren Aronofsky made a whole TV series with AI, a movie may be next.

Scared to admit

But as Scorsese and many others like him know, any new tool presents an opportunity and if you're not involved, you'll be left behind.

"They are scared to admit it publicly, but it is a tool that gives an advantage. If you don't use it, you'll be at a disadvantage to those who are using AI," David Defendi, a screenwriter and founder of an AI software company told The Hollywood reporter.

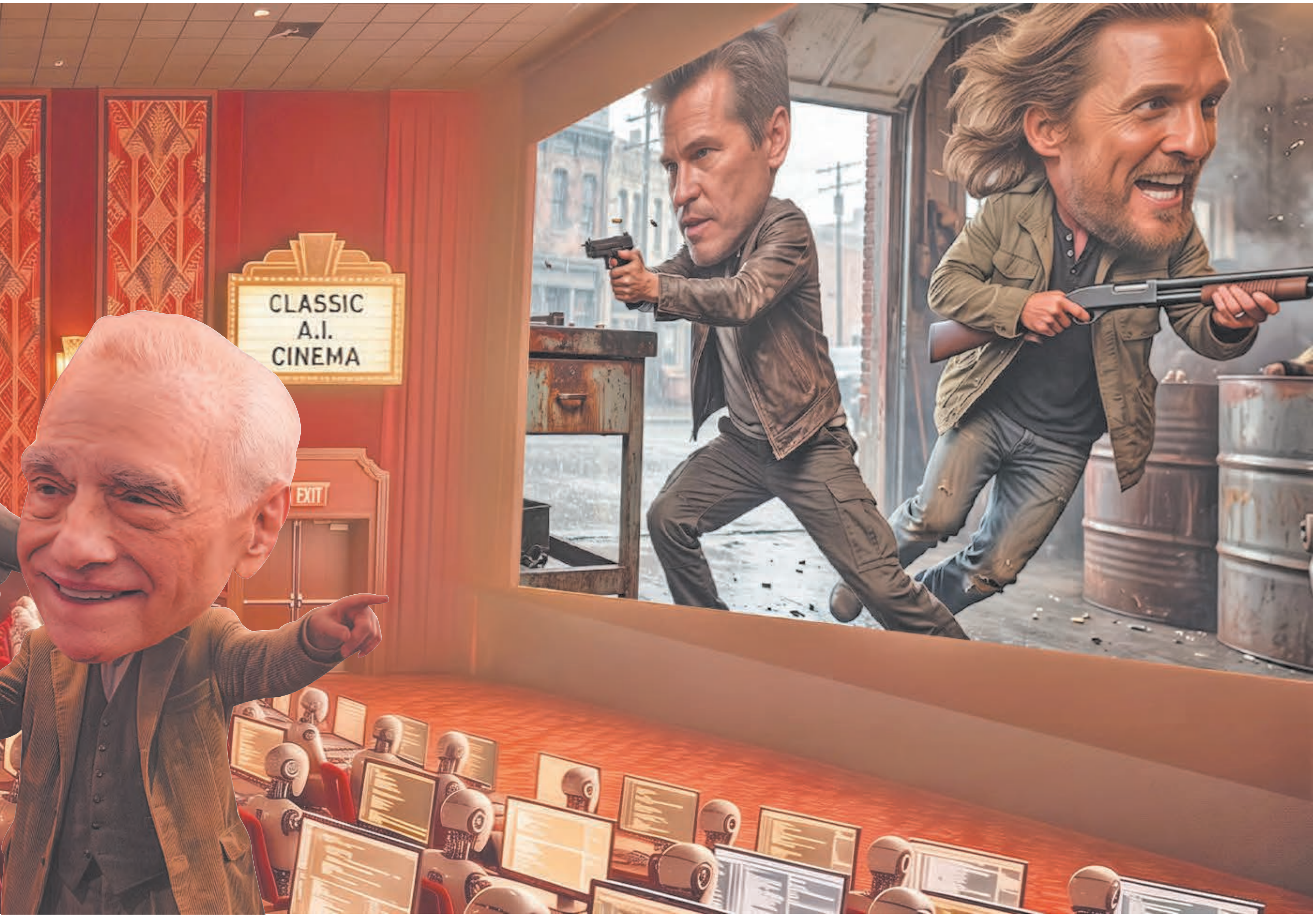
Seeing the opportunity, Oscar winning producer Ben Affleck invested in AI startup InterPositive. They have said their technology can be used to adjust the lighting in scenes, remove stunt ropes or correct continuity errors — the kind of things that are handy on real sets, shooting real actors.

Netflix bought the company in a deal worth up to $600 million, which insiders say is a lot of money for apparent "rope-removing" tech.

Keen not top tip their hands, the main players in Hollywood are playing their cards close to their chest. "The thing with AI right now in Hollywood: Everyone's lying just a little bit... Studios are lying about how much they're using it," media mogul Janice Min recently told Business Insider.

They're also tiptoeing around angry movie industry unions, who are all daring someone to step over the line and admit to using AI in a role which took work away from any creative, vowing all hell will break lose when they do.

However, once that genie is out of the bottle it's open season. Mooser says all the top shelf pro-



duction companies are "using [AI] technology and putting in the filmmakers to make it happen. And when it does, alarm bells will be sent through all the studios. It's going to be a real wake-up call."

What can be generated

One thing unions have been particularly vocal about: no AI generated characters, such as the controversial Tilly Norwood, a beautiful young lab-created female star, who had been subject of anger and ridicule, but still landed a role in comedy-drama "Misaligned."

INVESTED: Paul Schrader's making an AI film.

Everything else, it seems, can be gotten away with. The closest thing to an AI blockbuster up for grabs so far is "Killing Satoshi" starring Ben's brother, Casey Affleck, and comic Pete Davidson.

The upcoming Bitcoin-themed movie is being directed by Doug Liman — who worked with Tom Cruise in the drug-smuggling action-comedy "American Made" — and will include over 200 locations that, according to The Wrap, extend from Antarctica to Antigua and will all be created with AI.

Filming is being done on a "grey box" stage, where Casey and Davidson will act and have worlds created around them. Some of the editing will also help smooth things over.

If that's not enough to upset the traditionalists and unions, the budget surely will. Liman claimed the movie's budget dropped from $300 million to $70 million thanks to the use of AI, slashing travel costs and reducing shooting time.

Another big indie director, Darren Aronofsky, Oscar nominated for directing "Black Swan," has thrown himself headlong into AI created work, executive producing a collection of American Revolution shorts called "On This Day... 1776." They were met with mixed reviews, but were certainly a landmark in AI creation.

Copyrighting yourself

From the actors' side, many have copyrighted their images to prevent misuse online, such as "Interstellar" and "Magic Mike" star Matthew McConaughey, who filed eight trademark applications to stop his likeness appearing online.

One of the hottest trends among actors is to work with a lab to scan their digital image, so it can be used in AI productions without them lifting a finger.

Such tech is being used to bring Val Kilmer, who died in 2025, back to life. His last announced movie "Deep as the Grave," is now being finished with archival footage and AI creations of him.

British actor Michael Caine retired years ago, but he has licensed his voice to company ElevenLabs for use in various commercial situations. McConaughey — an investor in the company — is using the same tech to translate his voice into Spanish. It's reasonable to think his image and likeness may end up being an ElevenLabs project in the future.

Meanwhile, one of Scorsese's old pals, screenwriter-turned-director Paul Schrader — who scripted "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull"— is working on an upcoming AI film noir.

"By the time I get out, there will be 10 or 20 AI films ahead of me. And one of those is going to make a lot of money," he predicts.

And perhaps that movie won't even come from Hollywood at all.

"Imagine somebody who [makes a movie using AI] and it gets hundreds of millions of views on YouTube. It's so popular people are wearing costumes of the characters for Halloween. That's coming," says Mooser, adding: "It's a paradigm shift. If you suddenly have the technology to do things indistinguishable from a Marvel movie, you're only limited by your passion – although, of course, you still need to tell a good story."

And in that respect, the best storytellers will have many advantages. Schrader half-joked that for an 83-year-old director like Scorsese, AI may serve an unexpected purpose. "He's getting on in age. Maybe that's how he makes a last film, he doesn't have to leave the house!"

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DEAF TO ISRAEL!

Lefty rep shuns Oct. 7 terror vics

By DAVID SPECTOR

HOLD IT: Lefty California Rep. Ro Khanna visits the West Bank on Thursday, where he said he was detained by settlers (above), who were supported by Israeli forces, adding that they made a big "mistake."

Reuters; X / RoKhanna

Lefty California Rep. Ro Khanna callously ignored an invitation to meet former Israeli hostages and survivors of the horrific Hamas Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attack during a visit to the Holy Land this week, a source familiar with the planning told The Post.

Staff for Khanna (D-Calif.) first got in touch with the Israeli Embassy July 2, and claimed that it was a private trip, and that he wouldn't be meeting with Israeli or Palestinian politicians, according to the source.

On Monday, the Israelis offered a meeting with Oct. 7 survivors and former hostages to Khanna's team, but they blew them off, the source said.

The Israelis followed up the next day and Khanna's team never got back to them, the source said.

'A different path'

"Congressman Khanna didn't come to understand the situation — he came looking for a headline. Israel went out of its way to provide Congressman Khanna with access to communities that reflected the complexity of the situation, he chose a different path," the source said.

Over 1,200 Israelis were murdered and 250 taken captive during Hamas' barbaric Oct. 7 terrorist attack. Some were held hostage for as long as 843 days.

The Israelis also offered for Khanna to meet with Druze communities in the Golan Heights, representatives from Israeli border communities and to set up a briefing on aid getting into Gaza, but the congressman never took them up on it, the source added.

Khanna claimed he was detained by armed Israeli settlers during a tour of the West Bank in a post on X Saturday, which contained video and pictures of the incident.

He added that Israeli Defense Forces continued blocking the road after the settlers left, and that he was only able to continue his journey after he called the US embassy and Israeli police.

"They made a huge mistake. You will be hearing more soon," Khanna threatened on X.

Another source who was familiar with Khanna's preparations for the trip, claimed that the congressman was trying to "ride the anti-Israel wave" of his party and repeatedly rebuffed Israeli efforts to help coordinate his trip into the West Bank.

Khanna, who once touted his support for Israel, has recently turned into a sharp critic of the Jewish state and has been linked to multiple allegedly antisemitic figures.

Eyes run for prez

Streamer Hasan Piker posted on X that he would be speaking with Khanna Monday about the alleged incident. Piker has called Orthodox Jews "inbred" and said that Hamas is "1,000 times" better than Israel.

The California Democrat who has floated a presidential run in 2028, endorsed embattled Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner, who sported a Nazi tattoo and recently dropped out of the race following a rape allegation.

Khanna's staff later clarified with Israeli officials that the visit was a "campaign trip," and said he would be paying for his visit with campaign funds.

A spokesperson for Khanna said their team flagged the trip to House leadership, and the American and Israeli embassies in advance.

Vlad's missiles, drones kill 10 in Ukr.

A Russian ballistic missile and drone attack killed at least 10 people in Ukraine and wounded over 80 others overnight Friday and Saturday.

Russia launched 12 missiles — six of which were ballistic — and 121 drones, the Ukrainian air force said.

Among those killed was a 67-year-old man whose body was pulled out of the rubble of his home in the Donetsk region.

Russia pounded the area with three FAB-250 guided aerial bombs that targeted the city of Sloviansk, and caused damage to at least 15 private residences, killing the man and injuring at least three others, the Kyiv Post reported.

Apartment buildings, private homes, government facilities and vehicles were all damaged.

Ukrainian officials released pictures of a passenger bus and a car destroyed by the attacks. Officials urged citizens to remain in shelters, fearing Russian "double tap" strikes.

Russia hit Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, with ballistic missiles, injuring 11 people — including an 11-year-old boy, the Kyiv Independent reported.

Ukrainian air defense was able to shoot down two guided missiles and 111 drones, the outlet reported.

At the NATO summit in Turkey Wednesday, President Trump promised the beleaguered Eastern European country a license to produce Patriot interceptor missiles.

The move is a monumental shift in US policy since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

David Spector

News OF THE World®

BRAZIL

Their lip-locks landed them a world record.

A Brazilian couple earned a Guinness World Records title by kissing a staggering 195 times in 30 seconds.

Renato Bayma Gaia smooched the luscious lips of his girlfriend, Naiara Roberta Ribeiro de Marins, and broke the record for the most kisses in 30 seconds by a pair.

INDIA

It's hot 'n' yummy to the tummy, if south Asian spices are your thing.

Lucknow in northern India is hoping to attract tourists from around the world now that it has been named a Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO.

Lucknow, known locally for its kebabs, rice dishes and breads, is only the second Indian city, after Hyderabad, to receive the honor, which was bestowed upon more than 400 cities in more than 100 countries.

MEXICO

Phew . . . and OUCH!

The tourist destination of Cozumel is facing an unprecedented season of sargassum, a foul-smelling brown seaweed that carries stinging insects.

It infests the waters and sands of beaches, deterring people from visiting, and also hurts restaurants along the water, as customers with better sense stay away from the offensive scents.

NEW ZEALAND

He'll probably be "hanging 10" when he's pushing 100!

A 95-year-old great-grandfather is making a splash for being officially crowned the oldest male water skier.

Bryan Murray, who's been making a splash in the water sport since 1955, achieved the title in April after skimming the surface out on Lake Kereta in Auckland.

NORWAY

Oh "girl," you can get your kicks with us anytime!

World Cup soccer star Erling Haaland has gone viral for getting the "babygirl" treatment online, a Gen Z slang term referring to fawning over male celebrities who show a sensitive side.

The 25-year-old, 6-foot-5' Norwegian striker, known for his long blond hair and humorous social media posts, has become a goal-scoring star of the tournament.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

Rosie's $100M sign-off

Rosie O'Donnell knew when her time was up as the host of "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

The comedian, 64, exclusively told Page Six that when she heard she had a cool $100 million in the bank, she promptly quit.

"When I heard that [number], I thought, 'OK, now I'm done,' " O'Donnell recalled. "And everyone was like, 'Why are you leaving?' "

The Emmy winner said she realized she wanted to spend more time with her children once she knew she "had enough money to take care of everyone in my life, philanthropy and strangers."

"I wanted to be at their softball games," she added, "I wanted to be at school plays."

"The View" alum's eponymous talk show ran from 1996 to 2002 and was enormously successful — so much so that Warner Brothers offered her $100 million for just two more years. She declined, shocking the studio bigwigs.

"They were like, 'Why would you say no?' " she remembered, "and I was like, 'Because I already have that money and if I think I need more, something's wrong with me.' "

Nicki Gostin

Mantooth dies at 80

Randolph Mantooth, the actor best known for playing firefighter-paramedic Johnny Gage on NBC's hit 1970s series "Emergency!," has died. He was 80.

Mantooth died Thursday at a hospice facility in Ventura, Calif., after a long illness, his brother Donald Mantooth told The Hollywood Reporter.

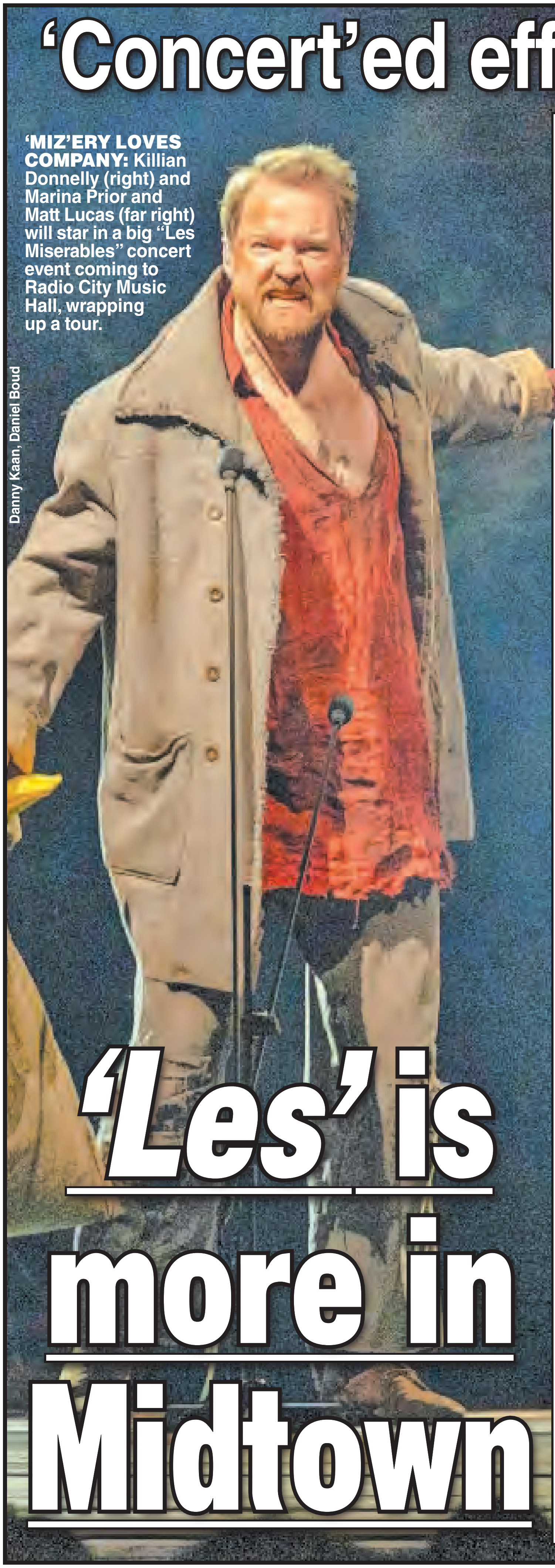
Mantooth shot to fame in 1972, when he was cast as Johnny Gage on "Emergency!," the NBC drama that introduced the profession of paramedics to viewers.

After the show ended, Mantooth continued acting for decades.

Adam Silverstein

'Concert'ed effort for big finish

'Les' is more in Midtown



'MIZ'ERY LOVES COMPANY: Killian Donnelly (right) and Marina Prior and Matt Lucas (far right) will star in a big "Les Miserables" concert event coming to Radio City Music Hall, wrapping up a tour.

Danny Kaan, Daniel Boud

JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

NEW Yorkers have waited nearly 10 long years for "One Day More."

And starting July 23, they'll finally be reunited with singing French rebels Jean Valjean, Fantine, Marius and Cosette — only not at their former longtime stomping, er, marching grounds on Broadway.

A massive concert version of the ballads-and-barricade musical "Les Miserables" that has toured around the world is wrapping things up a couple blocks away at Radio City Music Hall for 22 performances.

Forty-one-year-old "Les Miz," with its unapologetically tear-jerker tunes by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, was a mainstay in NYC for decades. It opened on Broadway in 1987, won the Tony for Best Musical and ran until 2003 at both the Broadway Theatre and the Imperial. There were revivals in 2008 and 2014.

But this new cast will be masters of a much, much bigger and more famous house.

"I wanted to do what's become an iconic concert in the most iconic way," British producer Cameron Mackintosh told me in London of his splashy Midtown venue choice.

As much as the Radio City run marks the end of the international event, it's also a beginning. Mackintosh pointed out that, while American fans are familiar with the show's huge anniversary concerts from airings on PBS or on YouTube, one has never played the US before.

Radio City is the first — and a rather grand kickoff at that.

"It's its own animal," Mackintosh, 79, said. "No other show probably could ever do it."

In every way, size matters. There will be 52 actors onstage giving their lungs a workout. They includes a trio of nightly rotating Valjeans (Killian Donnelly, Alfie Boe and Geronimo Rauch) as well as a couple of pursuant Inspector Javerts (Bradley Dean and Jeremy Secomb) and 27 orchestra musicians at the 5,960-seat venue that's home to some other "Lovely Ladies," the Rockettes.

For those hoping that the spectacle is the first step toward "Les Miz" or "The Phantom of the Opera" returning to Broadway, don't get your hopes up. It'll be a while before tomorrow comes.

Mackintosh insists he has no plans to bring either of them back, even though both continue to run in London's West End and "Phantom" is successfully touring the US.

The producer is put off by the dire financial situation on the Great White Way, with its rapidly escalating costs, and called it "a mess."

War and prices

He's right!

Unlike his New York counterparts who publicly grin and bear it, and then whisper dourly at cocktail parties, Mackintosh has railed against the disastrous issue of profitability becoming a pipe dream as if he's Enjolras in "Red and Black."

Do we fight for the right to a night at the opera now?!

When The Post broke the surprise news in 2022 that "Phantom" would close, Mackintosh told me at the time, "Everyone thinks these shows can go on forever, but you can't run a big show at these margins anymore."

That's true. The number of new Broadway musicals that have recouped over the past five years is in the single digits — even though, for the most part, barricades and chandeliers have been replaced by folding chairs.

And while there was loud speculation that Mackintosh would bring a more economical version of "Phantom" back to Broadway, that's not the case. He's happy with the tour.

Same goes for "Les Miz."

OBITUARY

PATRICK KERRIGAN — beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather — died on July 3, 2026, at his home in Brooklyn, NY. He was born on January 25, 1942, in Athlone, Ireland, to Michael and Agnes "Aggie" Kerrigan.

A natural storyteller, his curiosity and easy-going humor made him many friends, including several he met while sitting on the park bench across from his home on Shore Road. Patrick was a playwright, who completed several plays and dreamed of one day seeing one produced.

He lived life fully and on his own terms, with style and grace to the very end.

He is survived by his loving wife, Adrianne; his first wife, Joan, mother of his two sons, Michael and Ken; his daughters-in-law Rachelle and Leonor; his four grandchildren, Matthew, Miranda, Emily, and Sean; Matthew and Emily's partners, Caro and David; and his siblings, Mary, Bernadette, Patricia, and Michael. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Ann.

UF*Open up!*

Firm's 'crash retrevial' biz

By SHANE GALVIN

Lawmakers and Trump UFO advisers are naming the private corporations that allegedly operate alien craft-retrieval programs — as they try to drag the government contractors into the administration's disclosure push.

Avi Loeb, the leader of Trump's UAP Science Advisory Council, shockingly revealed on Rep. Eric Burlison's (R-Mo.) podcast "Fresh Freedom" that an executive of the $137 billion military contractor Lockheed Martin claimed the company operated a crashed-UFO retrieval program.

"I had a [former] high-level executive from Lockheed Martin visit my home and I asked him, 'Is there any truth to these claims?' And he said, 'It's not wrong,'" Loeb revealed on the podcast.

AVI LOEB
Shocking revelation.

Loeb claims retrieved tech would be enough to prove humans are not the only intelligent beings on Earth — and believes private corporations are ready to participate in the Trump administration's disclosure effort.

"If such materials exist, we would love to analyze them. With just a gram of material, we will be able to determine if it originated outside the solar system," Loeb told The Post.

"Historically, the US government and its contractors were not willing to engage with leading scientists. President Trump's directive to disclose UAP data that does not compromise national security changes the narrative, leading to a mindset of cooperation," added Loeb.

Former Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program member Hal Puthoff suggested on the same podcast that Lockheed was ready to transfer materials to the program between 2008 and 2012 — but that plan was killed by the CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology.

OBITUARY

THEODORE FRANCIS KOVALESKI

JANUARY 18, 1953 - JULY 1, 2026

It is with heavy hearts to say goodbye to our beloved Teddy, who passed away after a long illness. Teddy was loved and cherished by many people that crossed his path.

Teddy grew up in NYC. He attended New York University, graduated, and became an athletic director/coach at Birch Wathen Lenox. The school honored Teddy in many ways when he had to say goodbye.

He loved sports and ran the NYC Marathon for many years. He was a big Yankee fan along with the NY Giants. Teddy loved spending his summers in Hampton Bays with family and friends.

Teddy is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Karen Kovaleski; his son Brandon (Jaclyn) and baby Charlie, who he adored and who brought much happiness in his final days; his son Christopher (Olivia); his sister Stephanie (Peter); nieces Shannon (Chris) and Courtney (Anthony); his sister-in-law Christina (Jim); his niece Ryleigh (Osvaldo); and is joined in Heaven by his late nephew Shane Robert and his mother Elizabeth Kovaleski.

Teddy had many friends and colleagues throughout his life. He will be remembered by the love of his life, Karen, and their children, along with many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for Teddy will be held on **July 28, 2026**.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Hospice of Saratoga Springs, NY, in loving memory of Teddy Kovaleski.

Online remembrances may be made at **www.burkefuneralhome.com**.

LIGHTS UP!

JAWS 50

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Murder vic hub's 911 call

Harrowing audio of a 911 call captures the husband of slain New Jersey psychotherapist Brooke Hanlon pleading for help after he found his wife knifed to death inside their home last month — as investigators continue to hunt for the killer.

James Hanlon placed a frantic call to authorities around 4:30 p.m. on June 6 after he discovered his 35-year-old wife on the floor of their Chester, NJ, home, Fox News Digital reported.

"I just found my wife [inaudible] CPR, I need CPR instructions," the husband begged, according to the call obtained by the outlet.

"I need you here. I need you here immediately," the distressed dad pleaded with the 911 operator.

When asked if his wife was bleeding and unconscious, the 36-year-old, who goes by "Conor," can be heard screaming, "No!"

Ella Morrison

Post man 'tick'ed

Beats license plate rap

By RICH CALDER

These Brooklyn cops made the mistake of pulling over and handing out bogus traffic tickets to the wrong reporter.

My driving drama began April 12 at Fourth Avenue and 86th Street in Bay Ridge when I was stopped by about a half-dozen young NYPD officers who said they pulled me over for a "random traffic-safety check."

After making me wait 20 minutes, a female officer slapped me with two summonses, for having "illegal" dealership frames on the front and rear license plates.

I was shocked. I said I might not be a lawyer, but as a New York Post reporter I am very familiar with new laws prohibiting drivers from using ghost plates, clear plastic coverings and other methods to block plates from being read by red-light, speeding and toll cameras — but not dealer frames, which do not obstruct the plate.

'Not gonna debate'

The officers said they weren't going to debate, and a male cop threatened to give me another ticket if I didn't just drive away. So I did — straight to the 68th Precinct station house.

The ranking officer on duty checked both summonses and my plates. He said the tickets should never have been written.

He apologized but said he didn't have the power to toss the tickets — which were about to cost me more than $300 in fines and surcharges.

Helayne Seidman

SUMMONS LIKE IT NOT! Post reporter Rich Calder shows off the summons he received that was later tossed.

On Friday, I had my day in court — at the state Department of Motor Vehicles office in Coney Island before Judge Perry Bohmstein.

Officer Tiffany Ruiz, an NYPD cop since 2024, told the judge my plates were "dirty and covered by plastic" — never mentioning our debate over the legality of dealership frames.

But Bohmstein stopped the officer in the middle of her testimony — dismissing both tickets. I was thrilled — yet sad. I blurted out that I had a whole case prepared.

"You don't get to make the speech now!" the cranky, but obviously fair, judge barked before warning me to leave immediately before he changed his mind.

'Perverted & racist' boss sued

The founder of an NYC construction materials testing and inspection company allegedly made perverted and racist comments to female staffers, asking one if she'd ever had "Armenian sausage," according to a federal lawsuit.

Two female ex-employees at Long Island City-based Twin Peaks claim Jerry Agajian subjected them to unrelenting harassment until they were unfairly fired in April, they allege in the suit filed Monday.

Agajian would share "vulgar" details of his sex life and the women he wanted to "bang," the women allege.

He referred to one of his victims, Ling Wang, a woman of Asian descent, as his "Chinese b--ch," "chopsticks" and "kung fu" and the other, Karen Delara, who is of Dominican descent, as his "Dominican b--ch" and "machete girl," the suit said. *Sonya Gugliara*

Post Weather Report

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Sunday

Today: Mostly sunny and less humid. High 80 to 86.

Tonight: Clear. Low 65 to 71.

Monday

Tomorrow: Plenty of sunshine. High 83 to 89.

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 67 to 73.

Tuesday

Hot with sunshine. High 89 to 95.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 73 to 79.

Wednesday

Sweltering heat. High 93 to 99.

HOT

Evening
Partly cloudy. Low 72 to 78.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

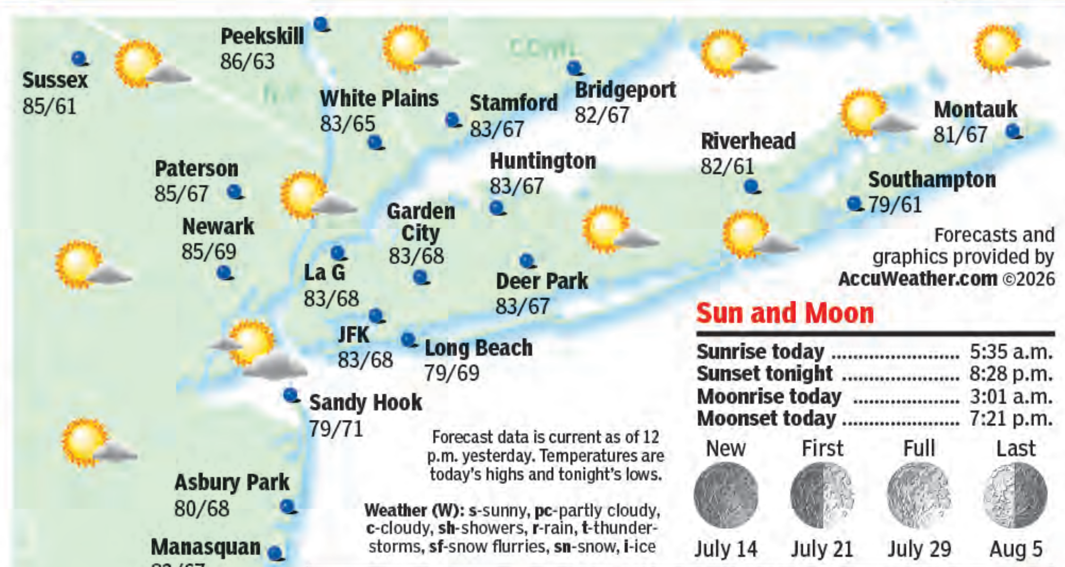
Temperature
High: 78, Low: 74, Mean: 76

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -2 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.02", Month: 1.56",
Year: 19.38", Normal year to date: 25.17"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 11
Total for the month (normal) 144 (133)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 544 (441)
Last year to date 486
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 74
UV Index (for Sun.) .... 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 73%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) .... Moderate


Sussex
85/61
Peekskill
86/63
White Plains
83/65
Stamford
83/67
Bridgeport
82/67
CONN.
Paterson
85/67
Newark
85/69
La G
83/68
Garden City
83/68
Huntington
83/67
Deer Park
83/67
JFK
83/68
Long Beach
79/69
Sandy Hook
79/71
Riverhead
82/61
Montauk
81/67
Southampton
79/61
Asbury Park
80/68
Manasquan
82/67
Toms River
83/63
Long Beach
80/68
Atlantic City
85/65
Ocean City
82/69

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

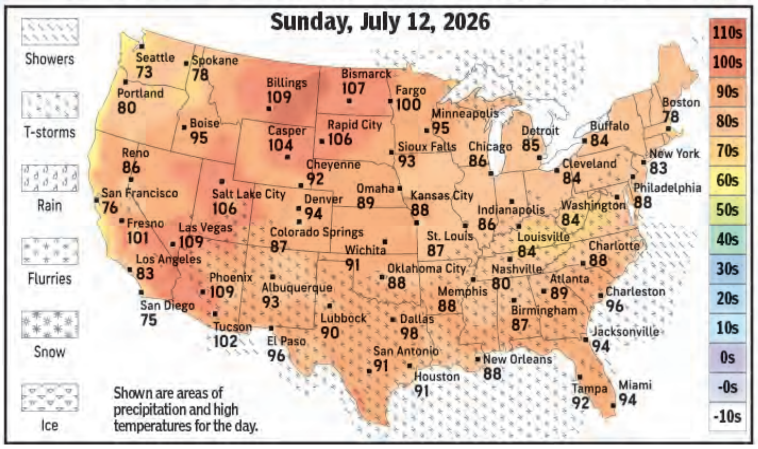
Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:35 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:28 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 3:01 a.m.
Moonset today .... 7:21 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
July 14	July 21	July 29	Aug 5


Sunday, July 12, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 73
Spokane 78
Portland 80
Billings 109
Bismarck 107
Fargo 100
Boise 95
Casper 104
Rapid City 106
Minneapolis 95
Reno 86
Sioux Falls 93
Chicago 86
Detroit 85
Buffalo 84
Boston 78
New York 83
Cheyenne 92
Cleveland 84
Philadelphia 88
San Francisco 76
Salt Lake City 106
Denver 94
Omaha 89
Kansas City 88
Indianapolis 86
Washington 84
Fresno 101
Las Vegas 109
Colorado Springs 87
St. Louis 87
Louisville 84
Charlotte 88
Los Angeles 83
Wichita 91
Oklahoma City 88
Nashville 80
Phoenix 109
Albuquerque 93
Memphis 88
Atlanta 89
Charleston 96
San Diego 75
Birmingham 87
Tucson 102
El Paso 96
Lubbock 90
Dallas 98
Jacksonville 94
San Antonio 91
Houston 91
New Orleans 88
Tampa 92
Miami 94
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	6:23a	6:46p	7:22a	7:42p
Fire Island	6:14a	6:58p	7:12a	7:55p
Hempstead	10:15a	10:28p	11:13a	11:25p
Huntington	10:07a	10:24p	11:04a	11:19p
Jones Inlet	6:07a	6:30p	7:06a	7:26p
Montauk Point	7:24a	8:01p	8:19a	8:54p
Port Washington	10:20a	10:31p	11:19a	11:30p
Sandy Hook	6:27a	6:50p	7:26a	7:46p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	86/65/s	91/68/s
Danbury	83/62/s	87/66/s
Glens Falls	85/57/s	91/62/pc
Gr Barrington	85/59/s	86/62/s
Kingston	88/63/s	90/65/s
Liberty	82/59/s	84/61/s
Monticello	83/59/s	84/62/s
Newburgh	87/64/s	89/67/s
Poughkeepsie	87/62/s	87/67/s
Saratoga Springs	87/60/s	91/66/pc
Stroudsburg	86/60/pc	87/63/s
Torrington	84/60/s	86/64/s
Syracuse	87/64/s	90/70/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	94/74/s	95/75/sh
Baghdad	115/87/s	115/88/s
Beijing	86/74/t	89/72/sh
Berlin	86/62/s	82/61/pc
Cairo	95/73/pc	96/74/s
Dublin	73/57/s	69/56/s
Geneva	96/68/s	98/68/pc
Hong Kong	93/83/pc	90/81/r
Jerusalem	88/70/s	88/69/s
Kabul	88/67/pc	89/67/pc
London	88/57/s	85/62/pc
Madrid	92/67/s	93/68/s
Mexico City	77/58/r	75/56/r
Montreal	83/65/s	84/71/c
Moscow	70/61/r	73/60/sh
Paris	101/72/pc	98/71/pc
Rio de Janeiro	77/67/pc	70/63/r
Rome	90/70/s	92/68/s
Sydney	64/50/s	68/50/s
Tokyo	85/77/c	89/75/r

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ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI AND JERRY FALWELL JR.

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‘MANIAC SQUATTER’

Madman ‘terrorizes SI condo complex’

Leonardo Munoz for NY Post (2); RICHMOND COUNTY CLERK

By SONYA GUGLIARA

It’s condo-monium!

A violent squatter with a criminal rap sheet has hijacked a Staten Island condo complex, slinging drugs in the hallways and attacking anyone who looked at him sideways, tenants claim in a lawsuit.

The board of managers of The Grant Terrace Condominium in Grant City wants Caleb King booted from the building for good after he’s allegedly been raising hell for over a year, according to the suit filed in Richmond County Supreme Court on Monday.

“King has engaged in a continuous, severe and escalating pattern of disruptive, illegal, and violent behavior,” the board slammed in the filing.

Neither an eviction notice nor a SWAT team have made King, 31, budge.

He was served notice in February, records show, but he ignored it, refusing to leave the 900-square-foot, one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment where he lives with his girlfriend.

Four months later, a SWAT team swarmed his building after he allegedly attacked a resident, chased him around the building with a knife and threatened the lives of his pregnant wife and young daughter, according to a criminal complaint and the lawsuit.

On June 28, King allegedly throat-punched the victim and shouted, “I’ll cut your throat, I’ll stab you, get off the phone with 911,” the affidavit states.

After the attack, a SWAT team busted down the door of King’s apartment and arrested him.

“I come out, I get arrested, there’s all these cops, all these lights, ambulances, everything. It was the biggest f--king scene for no f--king reason,” he said.

He was hit with a slew of charges, including aggravated harassment, criminal possession of a weapon and menacing. But he was back at his apartment just two days later.

LIVING IN HELL: A lunatic squatter (left) is allegedly torturing residents of a Staten Island condo complex (right) with drug dealing and violence (above).

Problem for a year

King admitted to “slapping” the man, alleging the purported victim was taking photos and videos of his girlfriend.

“I don’t know who he thought he was f--king with, I just told you what was going to happen,” King said.

The board claims that King has been disrupting the complex since at least May 2025 with his “chronic” late-night and early-morning noise disturbances.

King has allegedly been found “unresponsive or impaired” in common areas and staircases and has allegedly been seen dealing drugs at the building’s entrances and tampering with locks, the board claims in the filing.

He even allegedly grabbed the arm of a resident’s daughter in an elevator and refused to let go.

King laughed off his neighbors’ allegations, asking a Post reporter: “I don’t know, you’re talking to me. Does it seem like it’s true?”

King was also arrested in February for allegedly breaking into someone’s home.

sgugliara@nypost.com

Feds eye her nups to Gazan

The far-left, pro-Palestinian public school teacher who said married a Gaza man to give him American citizenship should expect to be prosecuted, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services warned last week.

“These individuals should expect to be discovered and prosecuted for this illegal activity,” USCIS Spokesman Zach Kahler said after The Post exposed the woke Californian’s twisted nuptials.

CODEPINK activist and California dance teacher Laura Pinho announced in a June 16 webinar called “Challenging Zionism In Our Schools” that she married a man in Gaza.

A Utah County Clerk marriage record shows that Pinho, 51, married Salem S.E. Abu Amra on April 5.

Utah allows for marriages to be conducted virtually as long as both parties bring valid ID and obtain a marriage license before the ceremony.

Pinho denied Friday to The Post that she married Abu Amra to give him US citizenship and claimed she is “wildly in love” with him. She said she didn’t mention this in the CODEPINK webinar because her ex, improv coach Derek J. Reid, was within earshot.

The Post has reached out to Abu Amra for comment.

David Spector

CBP’s $10M drug bust

Customs and Border Protection officers made a $10 million drug bust on Monday during an inspection of a commercial tractor trailer transporting cabbage at the Pharr Port of Entry, a bridge near the southernmost part of Texas.

A canine inspection and nonintrusive imaging scan led officers to a hidden load inside the trailer, CBP said.

A physical search uncovered 477 packages containing 1,173 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of $10,787,500.

CBP seized the narcotics and commercial truck.

Fox News

Why feds can’t just kill Mex. drug king

The new boss of Mexico’s most powerful drug cartel was born in California — raising thorny legal questions about how the Trump administration can go after a US citizen on foreign soil.

Juan Carlos Valencia, 41, who was born in Santa Ana, was identified Wednesday by US intelligence as the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, nearly five months after his stepfather, Nemesio “El Mencho” Oseguera, was killed during a Mexican military anti-drug operation.

Valencia was indicted on drug trafficking and weapons charges in Washington, DC, in October 2020. The US a year later offered a $5 million reward for his capture, which still stands.

A former US law enforcement officia, who was once assigned to Mexico, told The Post it’s now up to Washington to decide if and how it will escalate its pursuit of the newly crowned — but American-born — cartel king.

“It should change the rules of engagement where we will not target. We’re not supposed to target, put a US citizen in danger. He’s got dual citizenship. But his US citizenship should protect him from the typical protocol of launching an operation that would put his life in unnecessary jeopardy,” the source said.

“The US will never say that they’re the ones who coordinated an operation because it’s Mexican soil and its Mexican sovereignty,” the source added.

Adry Torres

OPINIONS & IDEAS

POSTSCRIPT

Tragedy hidden in Renoir's masterpiece
P. 46-47

KYIV TO VICTORY

For peace in Ukraine, don't give Putin an off-ramp — force him into a dead end. The future of American deterrence depends on it

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had a fruitful meeting with President Trump Wednesday, with Trump suggesting Ukraine could be given the license to make Patriot missiles (right).

Reuters, Getty Images

ANDREW CHAKHOYAN

ON Wednesday — in classic Trump fashion — the president turned the tables on the reporters gathered in Ankara to question him and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the NATO summit.

Trump asked the press pool what question he should ask Vladimir Putin.

A Ukrainian reporter shouted back: "When will he end this war?"

Trump smiled and paused.

"Good question," he said. "I don't think I've ever asked him that."

And that is the crux of it.

Russia can and must end the war it started in 2014 and escalated in 2022. Ukraine cannot do this, for it isn't waging one.

If Ukraine were to stop defending itself, there would soon be no Ukraine to defend, and Russia's appetite for war, already fed by stolen land, would only grow.

This is the lesson World War II burned into history.

The summit at Ankara delivered a noticeable change in rhetoric that American voters, who overwhelmingly support Ukraine and condemn Russia's barbarism, have waited for.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio described Kyiv's deep strikes inside Russia as an escalation that can help end the war. What sounds paradoxical on the surface is indeed the most clear-eyed assessment of the path to peace any senior American official has offered in a long while.

Russia's talent for starting and losing wars is vastly underrated. It lost to Japan in 1905 after assuming a smaller Asian power would be easily crushed. In 1989, it lost in Afghanistan.

When Russia is given an off-ramp, it escalates. We need to give it a dead end.

Putin could halt the war today. There is no permission to seek, no parliamentary vote to fear. He could purge half his generals and the rest would swear ever greater loyalty. He could announce "mission accomplished" — the motherland is safe again — on any given Tuesday. The crowds would cheer and parades follow.

On March 11 last year, the Trump administration put a cease-fire proposal on the table. Ukraine said yes within 24 hours. Russia has spent nearly 500 days saying no, punctuating their response with missile strikes on Kharkiv, hunting the elderly with killer drones in the streets of Kherson and murdering Ukrainian children with heinous regularity in Kyiv.

Ukrainian philosopher Volodymyr Yermolenko captured the moral divide: "Ukraine attacks Russian resources to stop death. Russia attacks Ukrainian people to stop life."

In 2026, Russia's war on Ukraine has come home to the aggressor. No major oil refinery was left un-struck by Ukrainian drones. Fuel rationing in Crimea is in place, and mile-long queues are forming at gas stations far and wide.

The Economist calculated that Russian oil-refinery production this spring was down 15%. Fossil-fuel revenues are billions below what oil prices would normally predict.

And now that Trump has promised to give Ukraine the license to make Patriot missiles, the outlook for Moscow's terror campaigns grow grimmer.

Russia is now losing eight soldiers for every Ukrainian killed. Some 450,000 Russian troops are dead, nine times the Soviet and Russian toll of every war combined since World War II. Monthly losses have surpassed monthly recruitment.

At a Ukraine briefing, Trump repeated that Tehran will never have nuclear weapons. Fair enough. But one wonders whether a few Ukrainians in the room raised their eyebrows. Kyiv, under pressure from the United States, gave up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal in 1994 in exchange for security assurances. The worth of those assurances has been tested over the last decade.

Every dictator weighing whether to build a bomb, Iranian ayatollahs among them, and every nation weighing whether to give one up, is watching Ukraine and wondering about America's credibility.

Beijing is watching too. Peace across the Taiwan Strait hinges on the same question: Does America mean what it says? Ukraine gives Washington a rare chance to answer without putting a single US soldier in the line of fire.

Trump's words in Ankara are a step forward. A robust policy of peace through strength must now follow. Restore aid to Ukraine, enforce sanctions on Russia and add new ones where needed. Make Putin learn that his war will grow more costly with every passing day.

Andrew Chakhoyan is an academic director at the University of Amsterdam and previously served in the US government at the Millennium Challenge Corporation

OVER THE MOON

The new space race for a lunar base will decide the future of America's national security

The Artemis II mission (crew inset) was a crucial step in securing space's resources for the United States.

NASA/INSTARimages, AP

LEROY CHIAO

AS an 8-year-old kid, the Apollo 11 moon landing inspired me to become an astronaut. I was fortunate to realize that dream and enjoyed a 15-year spaceflight career with NASA. After the success of the Artemis II mission earlier, NASA is looking to return again to the surface of the moon. Why?

Aren't we redoing what we did over 50 years ago? Why a lunar base? Why not go directly to Mars? One could even argue that Artemis II was not as eventful as Apollo 8, since that crew orbited the moon 10 times.

Legitimate questions. But what most Americans fail to realize is that the race to get back to the moon is existential. Our national security is at stake.

During the Apollo missions, the nation understood how important the space race was. America and the Soviet Union were in a Cold War that would determine the planet's future, and beating the Communists to the moon played a pivotal role in establishing Western dominance. At its peak, the agency received more than 4% of US spending. Today, it receives a measly 0.33%. But the moon's role is just as crucial today as it was 50 years ago.

It's imperative that we establish a lunar base. There are scientific reasons for this, but there's also a strategic reason: Helium-3 (He-3). This vital element is not only ideal fusion-reactor fuel but will also be critical to the future of quantum computing. Both of those technologies will prove essential to the future of American security.

He-3 does not exist in significant quantities on Earth. And we can't create much of it either. But it can be found in abundance on the moon.

The United States and other countries are signatories to the Outer Space Treaty. This agreement treats the moon much like Antarctica. It stipulates that no country can claim or own the moon. But the treaty does allow for research and removal of material.

This is where nuclear reactors come in. Besides providing reliable, continuous electrical power, lunar reactors allow the establishment of a safety keep-out zone. These keep-out zones offer a workaround to the prohibitions on land ownership on the moon: As operational areas, they would allow the United States to take full advantage of the areas where we place the reactors, for the purpose of, say, collecting He-3.

Other countries have already begun pursuing this strategy. Thus, America must maintain its lead in human spaceflight.

The good news: Our trajectory is promising. SpaceX is making great strides with its Starship program, a reusable super heavy-lift launcher. A version of this rocket will eventually be a HSF lander. Blue Origin — despite its recent setback when its New Glenn rocket exploded — is competing in the same market and making progress as well. One or both of these landers will soon be tested in low-earth orbit as part of Artemis III.

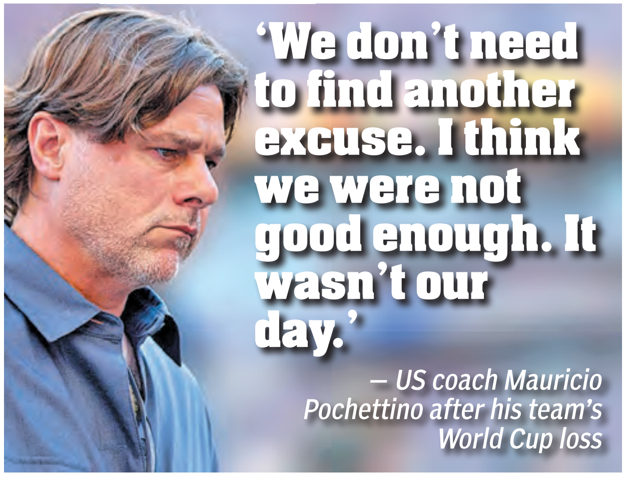
Private partnerships promise to accelerate progress toward the moon. These companies are nimble and able to develop technologies and pivot quickly. They complement NASA's excellence in space operations and technical expertise.

What we learn in our lunar missions will accelerate our path to Mars and all of its resources. The moon is only three to four days away. Mars is six to eight months away, at closest approach. Thus, the moon is the ideal place to develop and test hardware such as habitats, rovers and spacesuits in low-gravity, dusty environments with big temperature swings. It will also provide a key training ground for astronauts.

America's human spaceflight future is bright. As more Americans recognize the political imperative to return to the moon, so too will the nation's leaders. This, combined with the power of commercial partnerships and NASA's expertise, will secure our path to the stars.

Leroy Chiao is a former NASA astronaut and International Space Station commander. He is the author of "Dinner with an Astronaut." A veteran of four space missions, he has logged over 229 days in space.

Chatter



'We don't need to find another excuse. I think we were not good enough. It wasn't our day.'

— US coach Mauricio Pochettino after his team's World Cup loss

'We waste a lot of time with [the Iranian regime]. They're scum . . . and they're evil people.'

— President Trump after ordering retaliatory airstrikes

'Judging from today, I'd say grandpas gun does just fine.'

— Tyler Robinson texts his lover after allegedly shooting Charlie Kirk

'It is not a crime . . . to touch water in the United States of America.'

— A lawyer for alleged Reflecting Pool vandal David Hearn

Out of style

Never mind socialism — the truly rebellious kids are all conservative

Young people are rejecting DSA-style cynicism and finding things to love about America.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS of AMERICA

Getty Images

BRILYN HOLLYHAND

FOR years, my classmates and I have been taught that rebellion means rejecting everything that came before us.

Question authority. Tear down institutions. Challenge traditions. Distrust capitalism. Mock patriotism. Treat faith as outdated, the family as optional, and America as something to apologize for instead of celebrate.

That script isn't rebellious anymore. It is predictable, conformist, and boring.

Walk onto almost any college campus, scroll through social media, or turn on Hollywood, and you'll hear the same message repeated in different forms. America is systemically broken. Capitalism is exploitative. Christianity is oppressive. The nuclear family is obsolete. National pride is dangerous.

These opinions have gone from punk rock to establishment. The truly rebellious act in 2026 is refusing to believe them.

Young people are expected to inherit cynicism instead of gratitude and outrage instead of optimism. We have been taught to view the greatest country in human history through a lens of guilt. I reject that.

America isn't perfect. No nation ever has been. But if you were born in America, you won the lottery of life. It remains a nation where ordinary people are given the greatest opportunity to do extraordinary things through hard work and determination. Here, the freedom to chase opportunity is unparalleled.

That's why millions of people still build rafts out of garbage to come here. It's why the people who spend the most time condemning America almost never choose to leave it.

How did we get here? Somewhere along the way, too many young Americans stopped seeing freedom as something to protect and started treating it as something that was guaranteed. When you grow up in the freest country on earth, it becomes easy to mistake blessings for birthrights.

The consequences of that complacency have been massive. It has created a generation willing to trade freedom for comfort, capitalism for government handouts. Even more terrifying, it has created fertile ground for politicians who promise that Washington can solve every problem if we simply surrender a little more liberty.

History tells us exactly where that road leads: never to freedom, never to prosperity.

Our task is not simply to defeat socialism at the ballot box. We must raise a generation that understands why America is worth defending in the first place.

We can start with a few facts: The free market has lifted more people out of poverty than any economic system ever created. Faith has built communities that government never could. Strong families remain the greatest antipoverty program in existence.

No one needs to believe that America is flawless. But you'd have to ignore history to deny that no country has expanded freedom and opportunity like the United States has. We can build a bright future only on this foundation.

President Trump captured this truth perfectly during America's 250th birthday celebration when he declared, "You can be loyal to Karl Marx or you can be loyal to America. You can be a communist or you can be a patriot. You cannot be both."

That choice defines this political moment.

The battle facing my generation is bigger than Republicans versus Democrats. It is a battle over whether we'll become the generation that preserves the American Dream or the generation that votes it away. It is a battle over whether America is fundamentally good or fundamentally broken. Whether freedom creates prosperity or government creates prosperity. Whether we pass down gratitude or resentment.

Policy alone won't win that fight. Winning elections matters, but winning the battle of ideas matters even more.

That means conservatives have to stop playing defense. We cannot spend every day responding to the left's latest outrage while forgetting to make the positive case for the country we love. We have to inspire young people with a vision that is bigger than tax rates and government spending. We need to stop acting like we're just trying to beat Democrats and start acting like we're trying to inspire the next generation of Americans.

The future of the conservative movement will not be decided by how loudly we criticize socialism. It will be decided by how confidently we champion America.

The most rebellious thing a young person can do in 2026 is refuse to join the chorus of cynicism. It is believing that faith still matters, family still matters, free markets still matter and America is still worth loving.

Patriotism is the new counterculture. Because in a culture that profits from convincing young people to hate their country, loving America has become the ultimate act of rebellion.

Brilyn Hollyhand, age 20, is the author of "Make America Talk Again" (Skyhorse, July 14).

AI 'BEAT'

Share of Americans who say they get their news from ...

Social media	54%
News website	44%
Friends, family or coworkers	25%
AI chatbot	2%

Source: Gallup

'New Yorkers are getting ripped off every day, and Letitia James isn't doing anything about it.'

— The AG's GOP rival Saritha Komatireddy on news NY has one of the worst records in cracking down on Medicaid fraud

PLATNER OUSTER

'We believe that for the movement to continue, it can't be me. And for that reason we are suspending campaign operations.'

— Former Maine Senate candidate Graham Platner following rape allegations

'I remember him grabbing my pelvis and being really forceful of me. I remember the specific moment where I thought to myself, like, "This is no longer my choice."'

— Platner accuser Jenny Racicot

NATO.K.

Americans overall hold a positive view of NATO, though less positive than the average across member countries.

US

57% favorable
39% unfavorable

all NATO nations

65% favorable
30% unfavorable

Source: Pew

HELL TO PAY

Companies use surveillance pricing to charge you more than your peers — but you can beat them

MIKE AVILA

YOUR neighbors might be paying less for the same groceries you buy every week. In the age of "surveillance pricing," the cost of an item is being determined by your personal information. Companies are using your personal data to figure out how much they believe you are willing to pay. Now everyone from lawmakers to online influencers are starting to fight back against what many see as algorithmically driven price gouging.

Surveillance pricing is what happens when companies track who you are, where you live, the devices you use and your purchase history, then quietly adjust online prices based on that data. The profiling begins as soon as someone lands on a product page. Your preferred browser, your zip code, how long you spend on product pages — it's all part of the equation. The more companies know, the more they can potentially charge you.

Surveillance pricing is not the same thing as surge pricing, the practice of temporarily raising prices during spikes in demand or lack of supply. The big difference is transparency.

"When using a rideshare app like Uber or Lyft, everyone sees the same pricing and companies [typically] disclose when and why prices are being inflated," says Michael Lai, CEO of SmartCustomer, an online consumer-protection platform. In contrast, "surveillance pricing is invisible and personal. Two people can add the same item to their shopping carts at the same time and see completely different prices, and neither is aware of what happened."

THOSE algorithms don't ask "What's the price?" They ask "What's your price?"

If you've checked the same flight three times in a day, the system may tag you as eager. If you live in a wealthy neighborhood, it may assume you can afford more. Some travelers report different prices when checking flights from a phone versus a laptop, or from a private browsing window versus a regular one.

With any luck, it will backfire. "Surveillance pricing is the intersection of two things Americans hate: being spied on and being overcharged," Lindsay Owens, author of the upcoming "Gouged: The End of a Fair Price — and What That Means for Your Wallet," told The Post.

You may well be paying more for everything from bananas at the grocery store to plane tickets to cups of coffee — with stores using "surveillance pricing" to set prices based on what they think your data says about you.

Adobe stock (2); Assemblymember Emerita Torres/Instagram, Clint Henderson/Instagram

Some entities will judge you by the brand of computer you log in with. "If a company knows that you are doing some online shopping and you're using an Apple device, they may raise the price for you," Tom McBrien, counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center, told The Post. "It's like, any Apple users, we're going to treat them different than PC users based on our understanding that Apple users are going to be higher income, and so they would be less price sensitive."

Describing that approach as "blunt," McBrien points out that there are more sensitive approaches as well.

"One ride-sharing service," he said, "applied for a patent to see a person's battery level. If they have a low battery level, they might be more desperate to get a ride."

Clint Henderson of the travel site The Points Guy says surveil-

Ban surveillance pricing
Ban Surv
Prici
he One F
Pass the On
surveillance pricing is a rip off

New York assemblymembers are fighting surveillance pricing. Travel guru Clint Henderson (below) says dynamic pricing is common with airlines and hotels.

lance pricing is outrageous and unfair. Fortunately, he has not seen much evidence of widespread usage by airlines, cruise lines or hotels. But thanks to frequent-flier programs, elite status and co-branded credit cards, airlines already have a stockpile of personal data on their customers.

"Airlines and hotels dynamically price everything already and they've gotten better [at] figuring out what the markets will bear and what consumers will pay," says Henderson, adding that carriers have always targeted certain types of travelers based on patterns.

"Airlines used to charge more for tickets that didn't include weekends because they assumed those were business travelers who were willing to pay more," he notes.

Some online retailers have been caught showing higher prices to returning customers than to first-time shoppers, or offering better deals only to people arriving from certain websites.

IN the age of surveillance pricing, customer loyalty may prove to be costly. The Washington Post was just hit with a class-action lawsuit accusing the Jeff Bezos-owned newspaper of forcing certain subscribers to pay more based on their reading habits and demographic information. Ironically, WaPo's former columnist Geoffrey A. Fowler wrote last year about seeing the data that Starbucks harvested on him via its reward program.

The bottom line? "The more loyal I was," he wrote, "the fewer discounts I got."

Age plays a role, too. Older adults are an ideal target for surveillance pricing because of their demographic and behavioral characteristics, according to David Fesman of Med Mart, a medical equipment business.

"Purchasers of medical equipment are quicker to activate algorithms for pricing," Fesman says. "The demand for lift chairs, stair lifts, or mobility scooters are indicators of need and few options, which increases the personalized price."

So what can consumers do to avoid getting price gouged by an algorithm? Some of the most effective hacks are rather easy to pull off, observes Heidi Carney, executive vice president of marketing at True Citrus Company. All are meant to reduce the data flowing to companies.

The first: Use Incognito or private mode on your browser before you start shopping. Also, clear the cookies in-between sessions, log on to shopping sites as a guest, use a VPN to mask your location data (which, according to Owens, "can be a proxy for your income") and switch devices to compare prices. "I've personally tested prices across devices on the same platform and found meaningful gaps on identical products," Carney says.

MCBRIEN does things the Carney way, plus he goes one step further. While acknowledging that avoiding the vigilant eye of surveillance "can be a game of Whack-a-Mole," not volunteering for it can help: "When you don't sign up for loyalty or rewards programs, it makes it harder for companies to collect a history of your purchasing habits and browsing data. But, even if you don't sign up, they can still use online trackers and data brokers."

Being proactive can even remove some of the sting.

"Most US airlines will give you a trip credit for the price difference if the fare drops between when you purchase the tickets and when you fly," adds TPG's Henderson. "I've saved almost $1,000 this year by watching prices on purchased tickets and then asking for trip credits when the fare drops." He also suggests travelers use AI-powered tracking tools such as Junova and pAiback to avoid overpaying.

"Both have automatically gotten me trip credits for flights on Delta, American Airlines and Alaska Airlines," Henderson says.

Some lawmakers are fighting back. New York state legislators passed the One Fair Price Act on June 4. The bill bans businesses from setting individualized prices for consumers based on their personal information. If Governor Hochul signs it into law, the Empire State would join Connecticut and Maryland as states that have taken official action on surveillance pricing.

The best way to fight back against this targeted price manipulation may be through good old-fashioned outrage from the people we elect into office.

"I feel very strongly that it should not be the consumer's job to duck and dodge and bob and weave to beat the machine," said Owens. "I think policymakers have to step in, set the rules of the road and restore fair pricing practices in this country."

Additional reporting by Michael Kaplan

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Education Enemy No. 1

Teachers unions are a bane on American education — *including* on educators themselves — and a probe of union boss Randi Weingarten might be the straw that breaks the corrupt camel's back.

The House Committee on Education and Workforce is looking hard at American Federation of Teachers boss Weingarten's use of union funds to produce her recent book, "Why Fascists Fear Teachers: Public Education and the Future of Democracy." It follows up on Post reporting on dubious transactions uncovered by the Freedom Foundation that amount to hundreds of thousands of AFT dollars spent to help produce the book.

Of course, that's just a fraction of how union higher-ups profit from members' dues: Weingarten's pay is now $470,000 a year, not to mention ample perks.

Maybe she's worth it — to the union itself, at least: She's been a Democratic Party power-broker for decades, protecting the power of the AFT and its larger ally, the National Education Association.

It's damning that both unions now push a hard-left agenda, complete with pronoun lunacy and other gender extremism, as well as Israel-bashing and endless Trump derangement — all of it aimed not merely at society as a whole, but at the kids they're supposed to serve in the schools.

Ever since President Jimmy Carter created the Education Department as the unions' tool in 1977, paying them off for key assistance in winning the White House, the nation's seen a massive decline in quality schooling, as union-friendly "experts" waged war on any measures of teacher or school effectiveness.

The unions *only* want to maximize the number of dues-paying members; anything that singles out bad teachers or failed schools is a threat to that goal — as are good schools that aren't unionized.

Despite decades of pretending otherwise, the unions don't give a damn about the kids — and the pandemic exposed that truth. As time-serving teachers were enjoying the so-called work of "remote learning" in COVID's wake, Randi got the Biden White House to order public-health officials to prolong COVID school closures *for over a year* after the science showed they were worse than useless. Across the country, the stronger the teachers union, the longer schools stayed closed.

Before and after COVID, too: The stronger the union, the more taxpayers spend — and the less students learn. New York City spends the most (over $40,000 per kid), but schooling is even worse in Los Angeles and Chicago. Mississippi is where the education miracles are coming — in New York, the teachers union turned efforts to copy that success into a sick joke.

Change is inevitable, because parents want the best for their kids. So the rotten schools created by union dominance, and the outrageous waste of public funds, drive families out of pro-union cities and states — and within those states, to non-union alternatives. In the city, one in seven public-school students attends a charter, where the kids regularly outscore and outperform their peers in the regular system — despite charter enrollment being far less white and much less affluent.

At this point, *only* politics protects teacher-union power — and in a democracy, politics will eventually turn against outfits that now exist *purely* to feed off the public. Unless they finally start putting the children first, the teachers unions are headed onto the remainder pile — along with Randi's unreadable book.

'Faster Buses' Fakery

Mayor Mamdani vowed he'd keep to six minutes in to announcing his new faster-bus initiative — but damningly couldn't even deliver that, running overtime *despite* a stopwatch.

No shock there: The data show he and Gov. Hochul (alongside him for the announcement) won't be able to deliver meaningful service improvements either — but only ding average New Yorkers who dare to drive on city streets.

The plan sounds OK on paper: New routes to save riders six minutes per trip; better enforcement against violators who block bus lanes.

But that time savings assumes a passenger rides a route end-to-end, when nearly no one does; per straphanger advocates Passengers United, the time saved will be less than half of what the mayor and gov pretend. And the plan eliminates bus stops, *adding* commute time for many riders.

Mamdani and Hochul say new ticketing cameras will help cover the $882 million cost — but maybe issuing those tickets is the real point.

Witness congestion pricing: It has purportedly eased traffic slightly south of 60th Street in Manhattan, but also worsened air quality in The Bronx, which "won" much of the diverted traffic. But the MTA spent the winter crowing about how much money it had brought in, not the transit benefits.

Gotham progressives refuse to see cars as a vital part of city life, especially for less-affluent, less-white outer-borough nabes. So they keep imposing "sin taxes" on motorists.

Will anti-cop Mamdani crack down on fare enforcement on rapid routes? Unpunished farebeating punishes the MTA's budget by nearly $1 billion and ensures thugs and crazies fill the system.

All signs are that this project will wind up as yet one more way Mamdani & Co plan to make life worse for anyone outside their white, rich voter base.

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THE NEW NATO

As the NATO summit in Ankara (pictured) wraps, European member states are rising to President Trump's challenge, increasing defense spending by nearly 20%.

THE consequences of the NATO summit that concluded Wednesday in Ankara will be determined primarily by two questions: Will Europeans step up to honor their defense-spending commitments and carry more of the security burden on the continent? And will President Trump step back further from the alliance?

The answer to the first question is a resounding yes. Unfortunately, the answer to the second question is maybe.

At the heart of these dynamics is the concept of "NATO 3.0," which US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth popularized and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte adopted.

BRADLEY BOWMAN

Before we can wrap our heads around NATO 3.0, we need to understand its antecedents — or at least the administration's view of them.

At the NATO Defense Ministerial in February, Colby characterized NATO 1.0 as a "hard-nosed, realistic, clear-eyed approach to deterrence and defense" employed in the early decades of the alliance before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Americans expected European allies to "pull their weight," and that is largely what they did. While there were issues within the alliance of course, Colby rightly views that period as "tremendously successful."

Indeed, the primary purpose of the alliance was — and is — to deter and defeat armed attacks against its members. By that standard, the alliance is one of the most successful in history and a leading American grand strategic asset.

But with the end of the Cold War, the alliance shifted to what Colby calls "NATO 2.0," a period he says was characterized by at least two elements: a focus outside the continent and European disarmament. During this period, Colby notes that America "provided the overwhelming share of high-end military power for Europe's defense." It is this period that Trump criticizes most as unfair.

But that concern ignores relevant context.

The reason for Europe's shift in focus was that the Soviet Union collapsed, partly due to the role Europeans played. After the Cold War, there was concern in many quarters that the alliance needed to "go out of area or go out of business." Thankfully, the alliance didn't go out of business. It turns out, of course, that the threat from Moscow was not over, as Georgians and Ukrainians know all too well.

And where was some of Europe's supposedly misguided focus during NATO 2.0? Afghanistan.

It is worth remembering that America — not Europe — was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. Still, NATO invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, treating al Qaeda's attacks on Washington and New York as an attack on Europe and Canada.

Then our NATO allies backed up their political commitment with tangible action, sending tens of thousands of troops to fight alongside Americans. Many of these allies stood with Americans there for 20 years and stayed until the final days when President Joe Biden decided to leave Afghanistan. And more than 1,000 European and Canadian service members made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan and never returned home to their families.

One should keep such facts in mind when tempted to cast aspersions on Eu-

Our European allies are stepping up to fortify the alliance — and we must do the same

dpa/picture alliance via Getty Images

ropeans and on the NATO 2.0 period.

To be sure, Europeans fell far short on defense spending during that time. But, before we get too upset about that, it is worth considering America's wildly insufficient defense spending during the same period.

We should avoid lecturing allies who paid far more than money after 9/11. And, at a minimum, we should not threaten to steal territory (Greenland) from allies such as Denmark, whose soldiers bled in Afghanistan alongside Americans. Such might-makes-right behavior is from Putin's playbook, and America should be better than that.

So, what about the new NATO 3.0?

Its focus, according to Colby, is allies stepping up and assuming "primary responsibility for the conventional defense of Europe." That is certainly a reasonable and necessary expectation. America has vital interests elsewhere as well, and its resources are not infinite. Colby is right to press Europeans to focus on "outputs and capabilities" and "ready forces, usable munitions, resilient logistics, and integrated command structures."

Here's a key point: Our NATO allies have listened to Washington and acted.

They increased their collective defense spending by nearly 20% in 2025. This year, five European allies are already projected to meet the 3.5% of gross domestic product on core defense spending target almost a decade early.

It will be interesting to see whether the United States can sustain that level of defense spending.

In addition to increased spending, European allies are increasingly fielding combat capabilities and formations crucial for NATO deterrence. Germany, for example, is fielding a forward-stationed armored brigade in Lithuania to bolster deterrence on the eastern flank.

The challenge is the delay between increased European defense spending and the delivery of those "outputs and capabilities" to deployed combat forces. Damaging statements from the president regarding America's commitment to collective defense, as well as US military withdrawals from Europe that are premature or excessive, could create an interim deterrence gap that invites aggression.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has already started to reduce the American combat power in Europe that is needed. That includes ending the US Army's rotational Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployment to Romania.

The broad outlines of NATO 3.0 are sound. But its success will depend on whether reductions in US military posture in Europe are conditions- or timeline-based and how Putin perceives President Trump's commitment to collective security.

Bradley Bowman serves as senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

LETTERS

US needs Israel

President Trump seems to have forgotten that the Israelis helped us start the war against Iran, and they killed dozens of Iranian leaders ("Jet-ban nix riles GOPers, Israel," July 8).

They have also done a lot more than that and flew thousands of sorties. Now that he may be starting the war back up, will Trump ask Israel to help us find and take out the top Iranian leaders again? Will Israel help us again, since Trump has clearly forgotten how very important Israel's help was not too long ago?

David Lipton, Toms River, NJ

Council thieves

Rather than giving themselves 18.2% raises and allowing the raise to have a pretense of legitimacy, why not let the City Council members loose in a bank vault of their choosing so they can legally steal as much currency as they can carry ("City pols want to go pay hiking," July 8)?

It is Mamdani-land, after all, and that's effectively what they're doing.

Mitch Schwefel, Barnegat, NJ

WNBA needs Clark

Great opinion piece by Rich Lowry on WNBA star Caitlin Clark ("WNBA Scorns Its Best," PostOpinion, July 8).

The league fails to realize that it would suffer immensely without her, as she is a huge box office draw. Opposing players target her in jealousy.

Matt Engel, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Limit terms now

Sen. Mitch McConnell, who is 84, is making phone calls from his hospital bed to dispel rumors and show that he is not brain-dead ("Mitch back from 'dead,'" July 8).

Let that sink in. I have two words: term limits.

Greg Cantiello, Parrish, Fla.

Righting red cards

President Trump's proactive response of challenging the arbitrary on-field red-card ruling on Folarin Balogun before the United States' game with Belgium was not soccer blasphemy, it was effective leadership by a president who makes things happen ("Stars & gripes from the left," Isaac Schorr, July 7).

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen and those who let things happen. The naysayers are obviously the latter.

Miles Kuttler, Aventura, Fla.

Bridge rescue

The rescue operation carried out by NYPD officers to save a woman from taking her own life on the Brooklyn Bridge showed the professionalism, courage and human kindness that defines the character of the officers of this great department ("Finest save woman from atop B'klyn Bridge," July 10).

The care these officers showed for this troubled soul and the risk they placed themselves in to save her life should make every New Yorker appreciate such great officers who will answer the call of duty and place themselves in harm's way to protect and assist others.

Thomas Urban, Wantagh

Rent fairness

If fairness is the goal in housing, when will we figure out that the government picking the winners and losers will never be the right path ("A rent freeze reality check," July 8)?

How is it fair to tell someone they get to pay many times more than someone in a comparable apartment because the other guy won the loser lottery?

Live where you can afford. Work harder or get roommates if you want a nicer place. Stop asking others to subsidize you and fairness will prevail.

Sharon Wylie, Westport, Conn.

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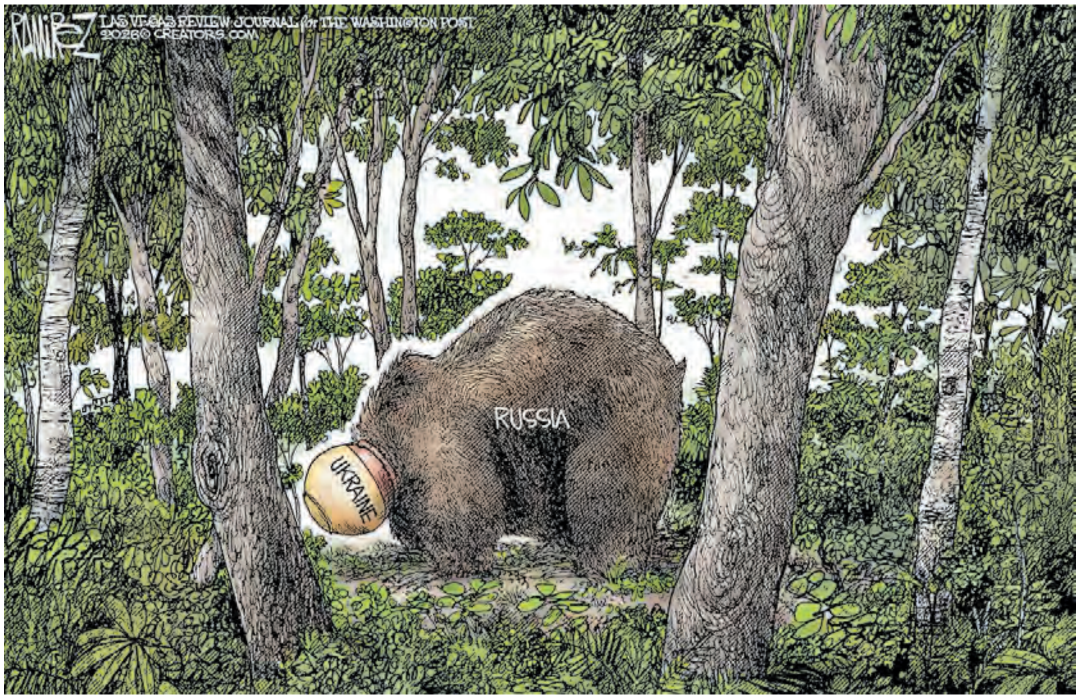
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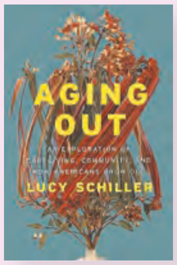
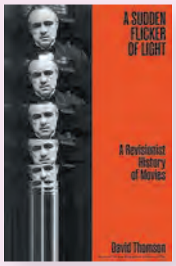
REQUIRED READING

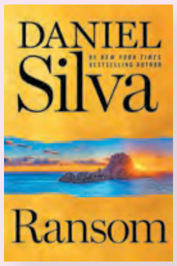
By Hailey Eber


AGING OUT
AN EXPLORATION OF CAREGIVING, COMMUNITY, AND HOW AMERICANS GROW OLD
LUCY SCHILLER

Aging Out: An Exploration of Caregiving, Community, and How Americans Grow Old
Lucy Schiller (Flatiron Books)
After seeing how coldly her grandmother was treated as she was dying of COVID, Schiller started digging into elder care in this country and why it costs so much. Her research revealed a crisis on multiple fronts.


A SUDDEN FLICKER OF LIGHT
A Revisionist History of Movies
David Thomson

A Sudden Flicker of Light: A Revisionist History of Movies
David Thomson (Simon & Schuster)
At age 85, the famed film scholar offers up a trenchant history of cinema —examining the art form and technology over the decades, from the Lumière brothers to “Anora” — while also questioning what movies have become and where they’re headed.


DANIEL Silva
Ransom

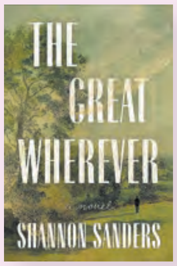
Ransom: A Novel
Daniel Silva (Harper)
The latest in the popular Gabriel Allon series finds the Israeli art restorer/spy investigating the disappearance of a British socialite, but neither she nor her real estate baron husband are quite what they seem.

JEAN KWOK
DOMINION

Dominion
Jean Kwok (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
The first book in a buzzy new fantasy series is set in a world with four battling dominions. The story centers around Rubi Morningtail, a woman who has lost almost everything when she joins an elite warrior team whose alluring leader, Blake Axefire, could be her salvation — or her downfall.

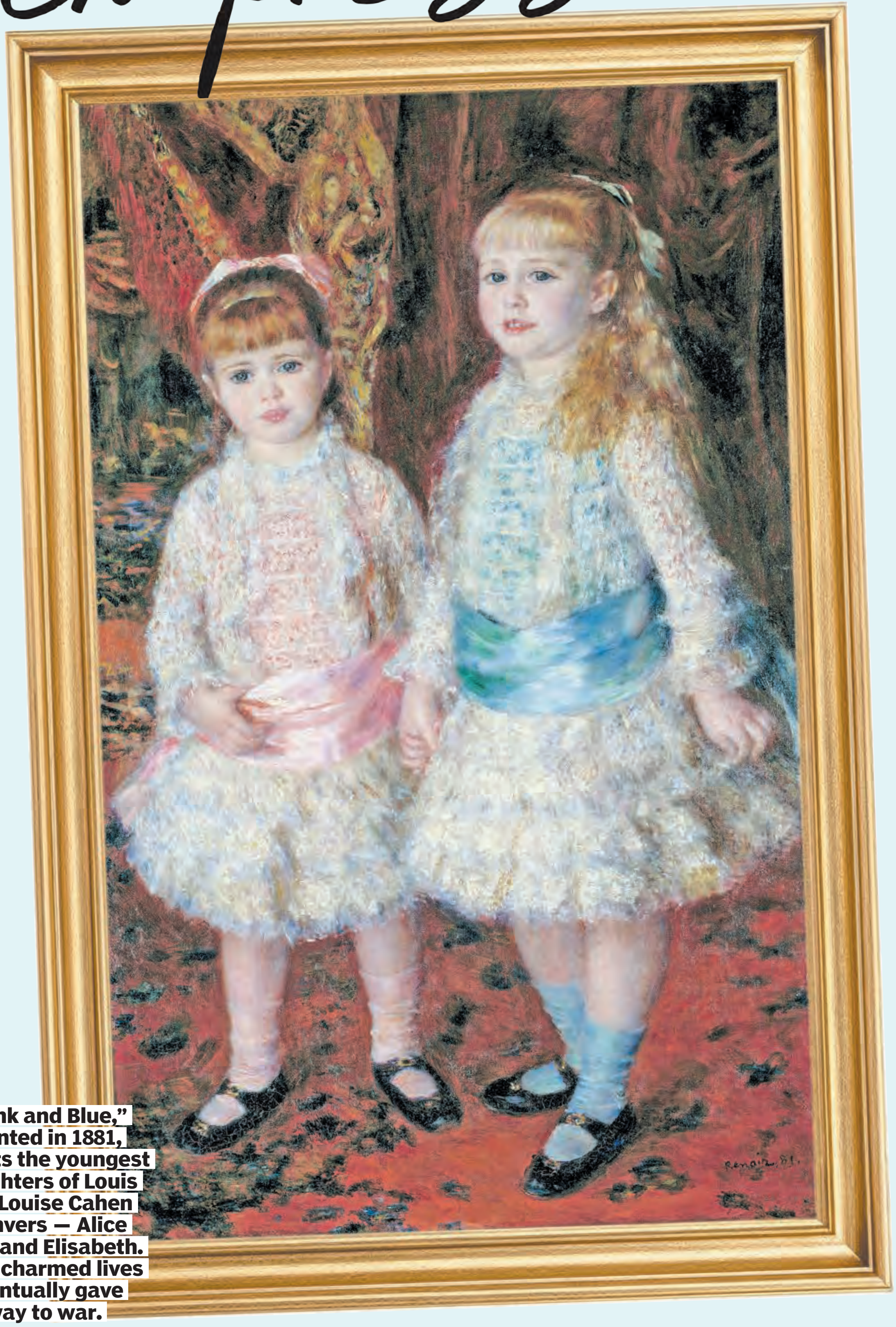
ALICE OSEMAN
VOLUME 6
HEARTSTOPPER

Heartstopper: Vol. 6
Alice Oseman (Graphix)
In the final graphic novel in the hit series about a romance between two British high school boys, Nick and Charlie navigate what will happen once Charlie leaves for college. A Netflix adaptation, “Heartstopper Forever,” will be released July 17.


THE GREAT WHEREVER
a novel
SHANNON SANDERS

The Great Wherever: A Novel
Shannon Sanders (Henry Holt and Co.)
Floundering 30-something Aubrey Lamb leaves Washington, DC, and heads south after she inherits a portion of a Tennessee farm from her father. She intends to sell and pay off some debts, but then she reconnects with her living relatives — and several ghosts.

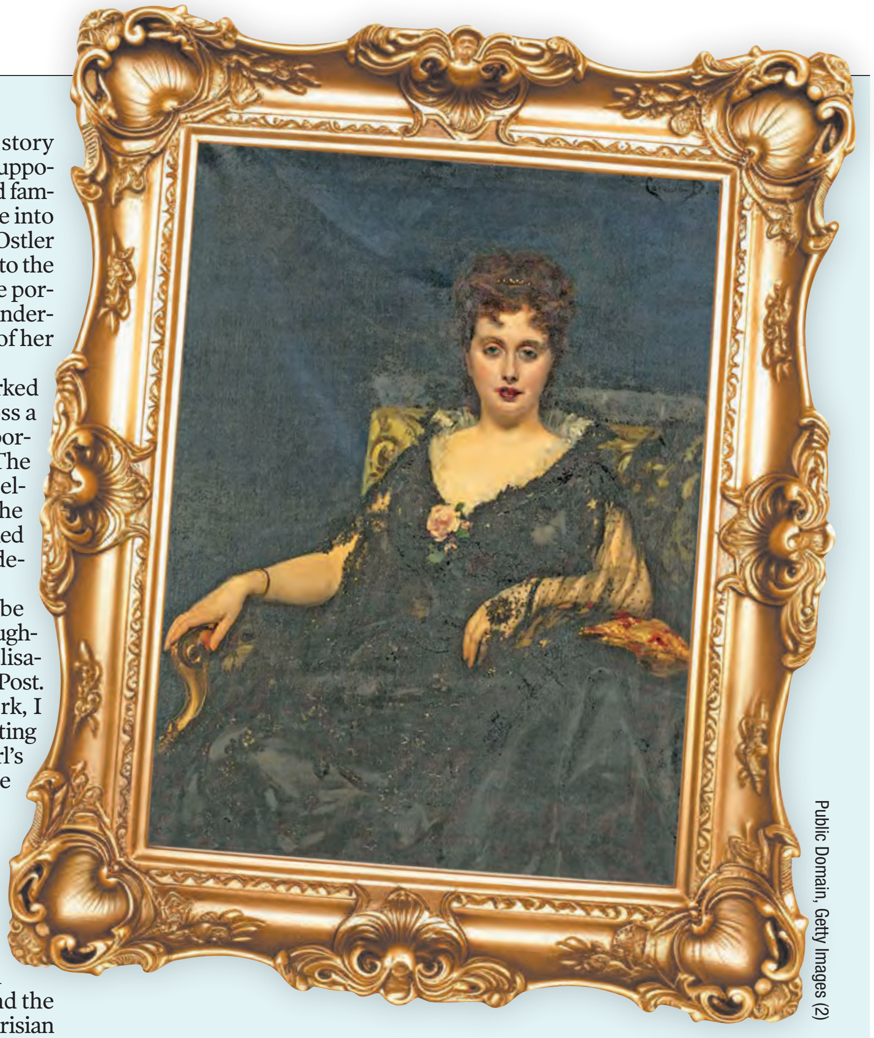
LASTING impression



“Pink and Blue,” painted in 1881, depicts the youngest daughters of Louis and Louise Cahen d’Anvers — Alice (left) and Elisabeth. Their charmed lives eventually gave way to war.

How the lives of Renoir's most adorable Belle Époque subjects turned to tragedy

Impressionist master Pierre-Auguste Renoir painted the daughters of Louise Cahen d'Anvers (right). She was a society beauty who flourished in Belle Époque Paris, but her family couldn't escape France's growing antisemitism.



Public Domain, Getty Images (2)

by CLARE MCHUGH

TWO adorable little girls dressed in frilly white — the elder wearing a blue sash, the younger sporting a pink one — are captured by the painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir in a moment of innocence nearly 150 years ago.

In the 1881 Impressionist masterpiece "Pink and Blue," familiar from innumerable postcards, jigsaw puzzles and art prints, the two cherubic figures are holding hands, their hair tied back by silk ribbons, their eyes looking out at the world with gentle trust.

There is no hint that Elisabeth, the blonde, then 6, and Alice, the brunette, 4, will be carried forward by time into turmoil, hardship and unimagined brutality.

As Catherine Ostler recounts in her fascinating new book, "The Renoir Girls: A Hidden History of Art, War & Betrayal," the pair began life as the cherished youngest daughters of Louis and Louise Cahen d'Anvers, a wealthy couple who lived on the fashionable Avenue Montaigne in Belle Époque Paris.

It was a brilliant era of galloping scientific and technological progress, and a remarkable flowering in the fine arts.

The girls' mother, Louise, was a well-known society beauty who dressed in haute couture, hosted a salon for artists and writers, and conducted a long affair with art patron Charles Ephrussi, believed to be an inspiration for Charles Swann in Marcel Proust's "In Search of Lost Time."

Ephrussi persuaded Louise to have her children's portraits done by Renoir, then an up-and-comer in the Impressionist movement, which was radically overturning the rigid rules of academic painting. Renoir first visited the Cahen d'Anvers townhouse in 1880 to paint an older sister, Irène. In this striking picture — known now as "Little Irène" — the girl's cascade of red-gold hair, doll-like features and creamy skin are set off vibrantly against a green background of tangled leaves. The next year, the artist painted the two younger daughters.

For some reason this second painting, although praised lavishly by others, did not meet the approval of the girls' father, Louis Cahen d'Anvers, who dragged his feet paying Renoir. Did the image of little Alice, in particular, make him unhappy? Did he suspect she was not his daughter, but Ephrussi's?

This is the first mystery in a story full of them. Relying on gossip, supposition, contemporary writing and family memories — plus a deep dive into French and English archives — Ostler pieces together what happened to the two girls in the decades after the portrait was completed. A final, thunderclap revelation is the capstone of her absorbing account.

Ostler's interest was first sparked 15 years ago, when she ran across a reference to the Renoir double portrait in Edmund De Waal's "The Hare with Amber Eyes," a bestselling memoir about his family, the Ephrussis. De Waal also mentioned that Elisabeth died after being deported to Auschwitz.

"This hooked my heart, maybe because at the time I had two daughters just about the same age as Elisabeth and Alice," Ostler told The Post. "When I embarked on this work, I only had a beginning — the painting — and an ending — the older girl's murder. The mystery would be what came between."

OSTLER devotes the first half of the book to describing the glittering world in which the girls came of age. The Cahen d'Anvers were bankers, and alongside other rich Jewish families like the Rothschilds and the Ephrussis they had joined the Parisian elite — called in colloquial French *le gratin* after the crispy, tasty top of baked macaroni or potato dishes.

While Paris society at the close of the 19th century thrummed with beauty and sophistication, French politics of the time were fractious. The Third Republic, newly established in the wake of the nation's humiliating 1871 defeat in the Franco-Prussian war, struggled for legitimacy. "There were those that wanted a republic," Ostler told The Post. "And others who wanted a monarchy, but even the monarchists were split between various factions." Instability fueled xenophobia and antisemitism.

Jews had been granted full rights as citizens after the French revolution, and families such as the Cahen d'Anvers had left places elsewhere in Europe to come to Paris. Most felt themselves quickly assimilated.

But suspicion and resentment against Jews flared once a French army captain of Jewish descent, Alfred Dreyfus, was convicted on treason charges in 1894. Although fresh evidence exonerating Dreyfus rapidly came to light, France split into two fiercely opposed camps, Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards.

Proust later described how Jews in high society lost status as a result of the Dreyfus affair, and conversions to Christianity, once rare, increased sharply. Elisabeth Cahen d'Anvers chose to become a Catholic in 1895. The tender care she received from nuns after a riding accident landed her in the hospital may have prompted this. But she had also fallen in love with Comte Jean de Forceville, a Catholic aristocrat from Picardy, whom she later married.

ALICE was taken by her mother to Egypt for the winter season in 1897 where she met one of the British Army's rising stars, Charles Townshend. Most likely Townshend first had an affair with Louise before turning his attentions to her daughter, 21. Townshend and Alice were wed a year later in a Church of England ceremony at the family chateau outside Paris. (He enjoyed a fine army career until April 1916, when he oversaw the humiliating surrender of the British garrison at Kut, south of Bagdad, to the Ottoman Army.)

Once she was married, Alice lived mostly in England, but was in France as the Germans advanced in May 1940, and resolved to spirit her grandson and granddaughter out of the country. Alice's daughter Audrey, married to a Belgian count, chose to stay behind and work for the Resistance. Alice, then 64, found herself cowering in a ditch for two nights with the two children and her lady's maid as the Luftwaffe flew overhead. The group reached Bordeaux just ahead of the Nazis and boarded an overcrowded freighter bound for Britain.

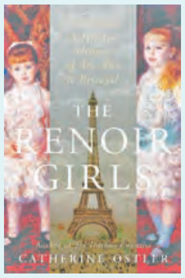
(Alice's grandson, Arnaud de Borchgrave, was the longtime Newsweek journalist who died in 2015.)

Meanwhile Elisabeth, who had divorced two husbands and lost another love in World War I, retreated from Paris after the German occupation. Crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, she could barely walk — a Gentile couple cared for her in a cottage in the village of Juigné-sur-Sarthe, 150 miles west of Paris.

Elisabeth considered herself a French Catholic and had no inkling that the rabidly antisemitic village mayor — likely channeling a grievance against the Cahen d'Anvers family from decades before — would inform the Gestapo of her whereabouts. She was arrested and sent to Drancy, a collection point for Jews outside Paris, in winter 1944. Aged 69, infirm Elisabeth, the little girl who once wore the blue sash, was transported east to her death in March.

And what of Renoir's "Pink and Blue"? Most fortuitously, in summer 1939, the painting was included in a collection of French art organized by a Louvre curator and sent on a tour of the Americas. At the tour's end the dual portrait — which had been sold in 1909 by the Cahen d'Anvers family to the Bernheims, gallerists in Paris — was stashed in a fine-art storage facility on New York's Second Avenue and 61st Street, until, in 1951, it was sold to the Brazilian plutocrat Francisco de Assis Chateaubriand Bandeira de Melo.

Today, Elisabeth and Alice's portrait hangs in the São Paulo Museum of Art — a poignant relic of opulent, brittle Belle Époque Paris.



URBAN LEGENDS

How wild animals are making themselves at home in big cities

by ERIC SPITZNAGEL

ON July 9, 2015, a dead raccoon appeared on a Toronto sidewalk and, for reasons no one fully understood, four men from a nearby office decided to hold a funeral. They bought a cellophane-wrapped rose, signed a card and placed it on the corpse, whom they named Conrad.

In "Our Wild Familiars" (Crown, out Tuesday), Dan Werb uses Conrad's wake as the doorway into an exploration of synanthropes — a term derived from Greek that means "together with man" and is used to describe wild creatures who have found niches in human-built cities.

"I love the story of Conrad, because it's so unlikely and revealing," Werb told The Post. "There are hundreds of thousands of raccoons living in Toronto, and many die every day. Everyone's first instinct is to ignore them . . . [but Conrad] revealed that we actually love the animals around us, precisely because they are funny, and elegant, and make us think differently about what makes a city special."

"Our Wild Familiars" looks at other examples of synanthropes, including the creatures living in our garbage cans, roofs, alleys, sewers, parks, train stations, courthouse hallways and polluted seafloors. Cities have become active natural systems, places where animals are adapting to human architecture, food waste, noise, heat, traffic and danger.

Toronto spent millions on "raccoon-proof" garbage bins that require turning a circular lock, a task raccoons shouldn't be able to manage without opposable thumbs. One raccoon figured it out anyway. Within a year, raccoons across the city had learned the trick too.

Werb calls this "reversal learning," the cognitive ability to unlearn old strategies when circumstances change. Biologists studying the phenomenon say raccoon intelligence is evolving faster than usual in cities, where raccoons are constantly forced to learn new rules.

"Where this is all eventually going to lead is anyone's guess," Werb said, "which is very exciting."

City raccoons are an unremarkable fact of urban life, but that didn't stop Toronto from honoring a dead one (left).

Christopher Sadowski, Wikimedia

CONRAD THE RACCOON
HERITAGE TORONTO 2025

Shortly after moving to Buffalo, NY, architect Joyce Hwang attended a party and the conversation turned to local survival tips. Someone told her she needed a tennis racket because, as Werb writes, "We have a ton of bats here," and "you can only kill them with a racket."

Hwang responded by designing structures that function as both public art and animal habitat, including Bat Cloud, a set of tunnel-like roosts installed in trees, and Bat Tower, a wooden sculpture with a hollow interior, landing pads and plants meant to attract insects for bats to eat.

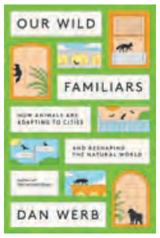
As Werb puts it, her sculptures reveal that "the opposite of fear is intimacy," and that cities can be made more beautiful and more biodiverse at the same time.

In Seattle, marine ecologist Eliza Heery took Werb into a stranger urban frontier, the polluted water around the city. The seafloor near her research sites contains rotting boat hulls, broken concrete, garden gnomes, handguns, old refrigerators and even a rusting van, along with arsenic, mercury, PCBs, lead and other contamination from nearby Superfund sites. And, somehow, it's teeming with marine life.

"Amidst this grim world, Giant Pacific Octopus, one of the world's most beautiful, enigmatic, and intelligent creatures, aren't just surviving, but thriving, in greater numbers than pristine areas further out to sea," Werb said.

For him, the discovery shows how stubborn ecosystems can find a foothold, even in places humans have treated like underwater junk drawers. "No matter how bad things appear, there is almost always a pathway for ecosystems to proliferate," Werb said.

That lesson becomes more dangerous when the animal at the center of the story is a leopard. In February 2023, a leopard entered a courthouse in Ghaziabad, India, and spent four hours tearing through the hallways, injuring at least five people.


OUR WILD
FAMILIARS
HOW ANIMALS ARE ADAPTING TO CITIES
AND RESHAPING THE NATURAL WORLD
DAN WERB

The scene was terrifying because the humans suddenly became prey. Ghaziabad sits near wilderness where leopards have long prowled, and as cities push deeper into their habitat, encounters like this become less freakish and more predictable.

"Interspecies coexistence is complicated," Werb said. "It's a lot easier to coexist with hundreds of thousands of urban raccoons than one or two urban leopards."

The practical answer, he argues, begins with changing human behavior rather than animal behavior. New York has waged war on rats since the 1970s, and Werb said the result has been rats that are "invulnerable to rodenticides and far better adapted to living in the city."

But the city's new bin mandate, which began June 1 and requires New Yorkers to containerize trash instead of leaving it in bags on the sidewalk, reduced rat sightings by 60% during its West Harlem pilot phase.

"That basic lesson, changing human behavior to create harmony with urban animals, is pretty foolproof," Werb said. "But when the animal is an apex predator on the brink of extinction, like a leopard or tiger, you can't wait decades to figure out a solution, because by then the species will be lost, and some humans might be, too."

In Werb's telling, the city is a living habitat with more species, stranger neighbors, and deeper animal dramas than most people notice. "Cities are nature," he writes.

BUZZ: BookTok revived a late author's career

JACQUELINE Harpman has been dead for 14 years, but she's living every author's dream.

She has a new short story collection — "We Were Forbidden" (out now) — a novel that's become a bestselling phenom thanks to social media and three more books in the pipeline.

Harpman, a Belgian-Jewish writer and trained psychoanalyst, died of cancer in 2012 at the age of 82. More than a decade later, she became a BookTok sensation with the re-release of her dystopian novel, "I Who Have Never Known Men."

Since going viral, the book has sold roughly 600,000 copies — the type of numbers usually reserved for Hollywood-endorsed beach reads, blockbuster spy novels and juicy celebrity memoirs — and it's still reaching new readers, according to publisher Transit Books.

"This is certainly the most commercial success she's ever received," Transit's publisher Adam Levy told The Post, describing Harpman as "well-respected" during her lifetime.

Levy plucked "I Who Have Never Known Men" from the backlist catalogue of Harpman's French publisher, expecting the dark novel, which follows 40 women imprisoned in an underground bunker, clinging to their humanity as they're prohibited from talking, touching or singing, to appeal to Transit's core audience of literary-minded book buyers.

He credits the pandemic — "we were all in a way trapped in our own little bunkers" — for springboarding Harpman's posthumous literary fame.

Levy said Transit will publish three more of Harpman's books over the next three years. He's excited for readers to glimpse a different side of the author in "We Were Forbidden." It opens bleakly with "The Ardennes Forest" — "a sibling of 'I Who Have Never Known Men,' " according to Levy — but then branches out into an autobiographical story about a feisty teenager ruffling feathers while living in Morocco to escape World War II. The book ends with a risque tale, called "The Broom Closet," about an upper crust Belgian adulteress.

"She has a little bit of a saucier side to her," Levy said.

For TikTokker Carmin C., however, the stark sensibility of "I Who Have Never Known Men," is what hooked her into Harpman's writing.

"Our current political climate and social climate feels very dystopian," said Carmin, a 29-year-old grad student living in Chicago, who shares her life, and literary recommendations, under the name CC's Thoughts.

She's posted about "I Who Have Never Known Men" a number of times. She said, "I think that [book] really mirrors what a lot of women are feeling in the current era."

— *Rachelle Bergstein*

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Sunday Break

PLAY MORE

“OPPOSITE DAY”

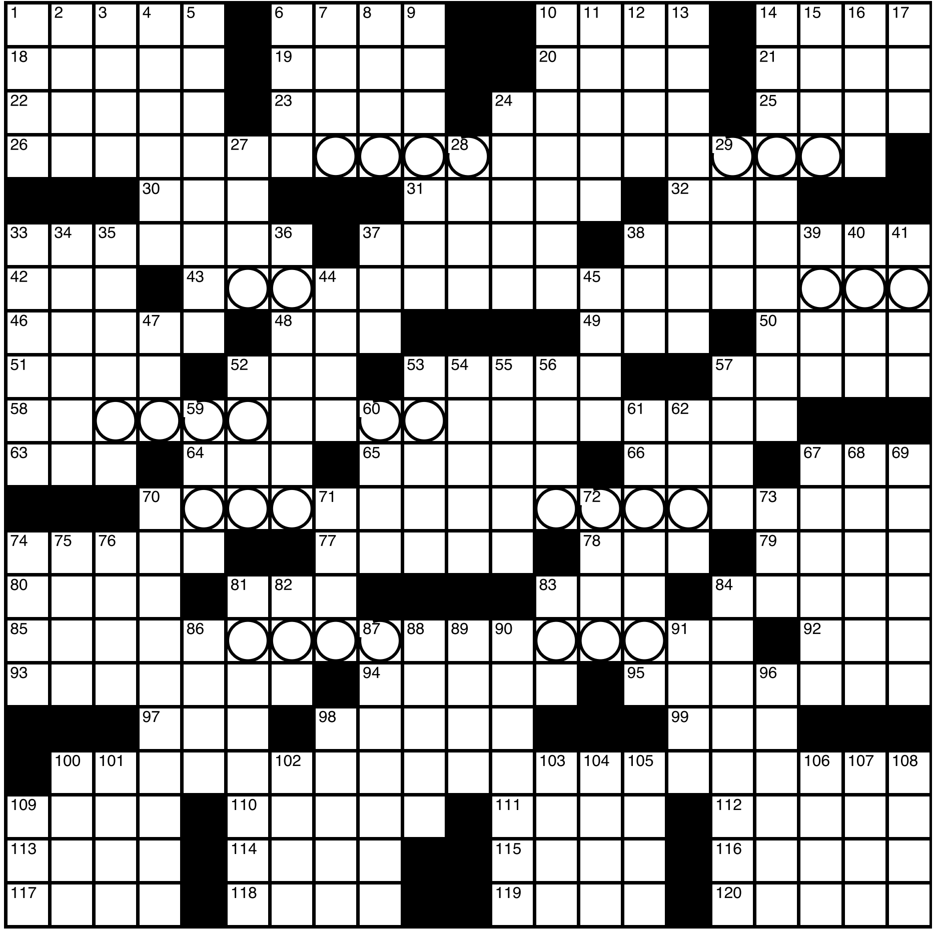
By Will Nediger & Beth Rubin

Across

1 Option B precursor
6 Creature in “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”
10 Winter resort rentals
14 Supermodel Kate
18 Old Renault
19 Apple tablet
20 Penny
21 Each
22 Not suitable
23 Mandala medium, often
24 “__ you asked ... ”
25 Count (on)
26 Took unnecessary risks, in a British idiom
30 WNW opposite
31 Love, in Italian
32 Asian language
33 Handel oratorio
37 Former
38 All excited
42 Ginger __
43 Backup for a proofreader, perhaps
46 Lightweight fabric
48 Romance
49 “C’est la __!”
50 Trolley car
51 Celebrity couple
52 Pres. on a dime
53 Imrie of “The Thursday Murder Club”
57 Square things
58 Grow increasingly recalcitrant
63 2028 Olympics host: Abbr.
64 “The Fresh Prince of __-Air”
65 __ acid
66 Apology starter
67 Male swan
70 Suffer public humiliation
74 2024 Olympics host
77 Newark’s county
78 Permit
79 Burden
80 Lasting mark
81 Org. nicknamed “No Such Agency”
83 Owns
84 Nimble
85 2010 animated film featuring Princess Fiona
92 Singer __ King Cole
93 Game for little batters
94 Hazardous gas
95 Goes on and on
97 Finish
98 OB test
99 Reuben sandwich bread
100 Oxymoron, or what can be found five times in this puzzle
109 __ of paradise
110 Flared skirt style
111 Voting group
112 Inbox message
113 Demolish
114 Ice sheet
115 85-Across figure
116 Mother-of-pearl
117 Rude one
118 Throw out
119 “Easier __ than done”
120 Woolen cloth

Down

1 “And also ... ”
2 Singer and civil rights activist Horne
3 Palm berry
4 City where pizza was invented
5 __ well
6 Frisbee, e.g.
7 Birthstone between sapphire and topaz
8 Paul who played twins in “There Will Be Blood”
9 “Most likely ... ”
10 Annabella of “Tulsa King”
11 __ cloth: Ghanaian textile
12 Move slowly
13 Digital protection device?
14 Figure that comes with strings attached
15 Accepting customers
16 “Deal!”
17 Intel gatherer
24 Small porch
27 Campus leader
28 Mideast leader
29 Urchin
33 Beach city near Pepperdine
34 Powerful groups
35 __ Falls Convention
36 “What a bore”
37 Soup often garnished with bean sprouts
38 Nev. neighbor
39 Wrap with tzatziki
40 Tilt
41 “Hanna” star Creed-Miles
44 Having trouble deciding
45 Physiologist Pavlov
47 Given to moping, maybe
52 Sense
53 Unresponsive states
54 Party-planning site
55 Massachusetts home of the Tanglewood Music Festival
56 Wrinkle remover
57 Quaint word of despair
59 Many execs
60 Lasses
61 Pardon
62 Vivid vegetable
67 Pointy tooth
68 Eye-related
69 Attacks from all sides
70 Figure who manipulates flames in a Nickelodeon fantasy series
71 Phobia
72 Villainous Count of kid-lit
73 Confused state
74 Note-passer’s utterance
75 Head or heart follower
76 Valuable to collectors
81 Annual Player Selection Meeting, informally
82 Step on the scale?
83 Largest Chinese ethnic group
84 Military encampment unit
86 Philosopher Immanuel
87 Winter stoats
88 “Lovecraft Country” actor Courtney B. __
89 Revise
90 Reddish-brown tea
91 Work hard for
96 Grandma, to some
98 “Farewell, amigos!”
100 “Farewell, amici!”
101 Ricelike pasta
102 French greeting
103 Tokarczuk who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature
104 Onigiri wrapper
105 Like cupcakes but not muffins, usually
106 Compete against the clock
107 Slimy mud
108 Toboggan, e.g.
109 Texter’s “Just a moment”



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Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow’s New York Post.

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Very Easy #7,337

			2		3		5	
		6		9	5	8		
5				4		7		3
7		5		6	8	1		9
2		3	5	1		6		8
6		7		8				5
		4	6	5		2		
	5		9		1			

Difficult #7,127

3	6			7				
7			2	1	3			5
		2		8	6			
	9	5				3	1	
			5	3		2		
2			7	6	8			1
				9			6	7

Challenging #563

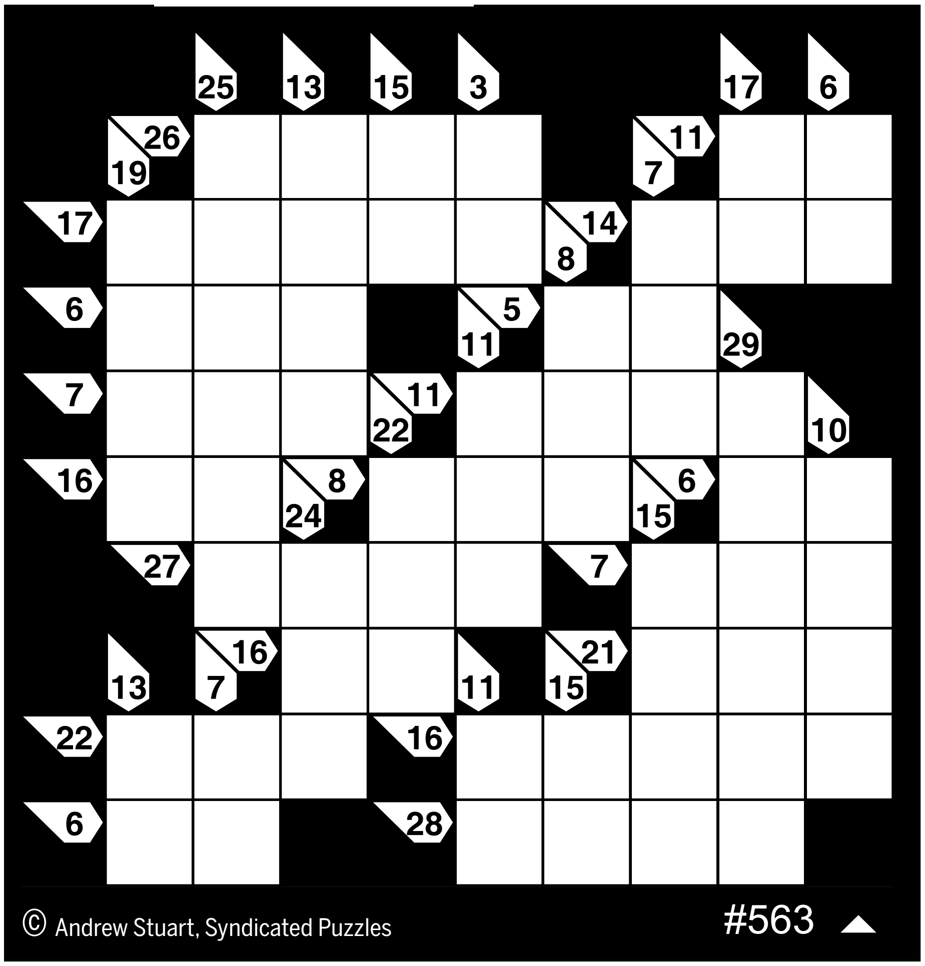
						5		
	9	8				2		1
					9			
	7		9					
	6	1	3		4	7	8	
			6		5		4	
			1					
4		2				9	6	
		3						4

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 58

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 58

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



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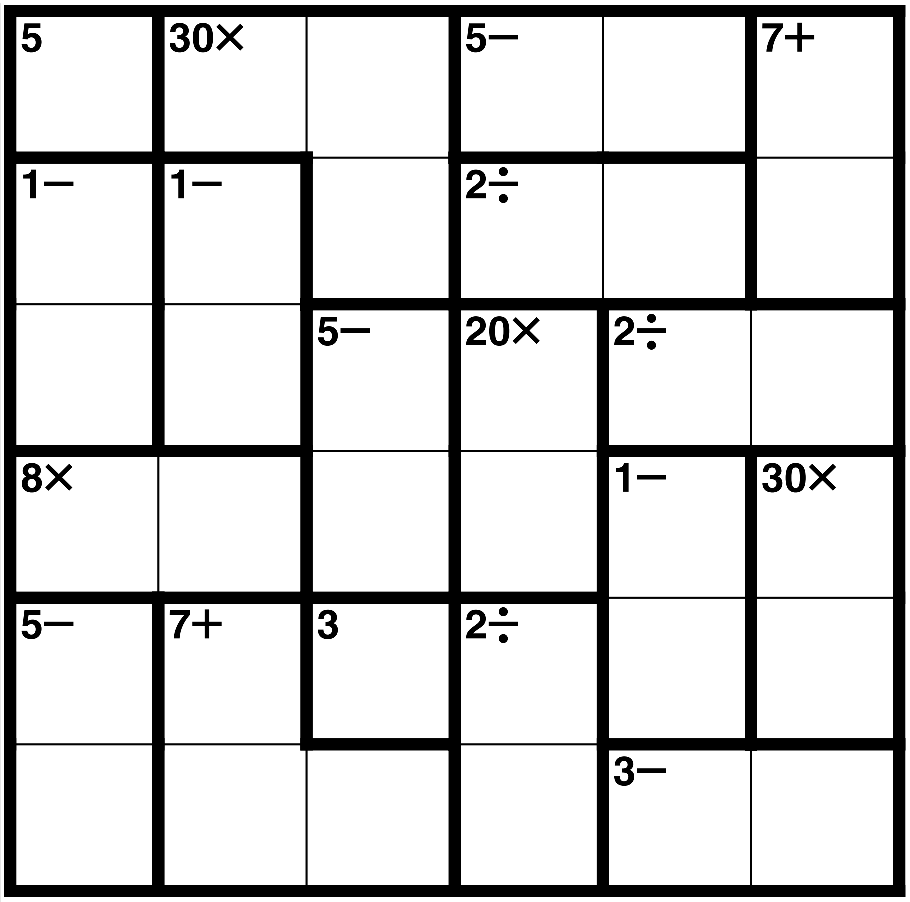
#563

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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Chess

Knight shift

By Andy Soltis

Another of the helpful hints that win games is:

Always look for an enemy piece that just lost its protection.

When Black left a knight unguarded with 16...dxc5 in this week's game, White took the hint to look for a tactical blitz.

After 17 Rf5! Black could not afford 17...Qxd2 18 Rxe5+.

Nor could he avoid the loss of material with 17...Ng6 18 Qxd8+ followed by 19 Rxd8+ and 20 Rxf7.

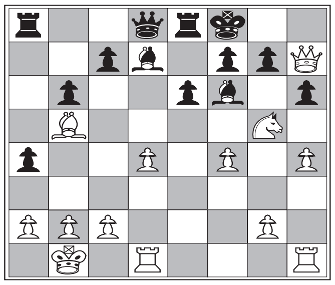
After 17...f6 18 Bh5+! he could have faced 18...Ke7 19 Rxe5+! fxe5 20 Qg5+ and lost.

Instead, it was 18...Ng6 19 Qh6! that cost him the game.

For example, 19...Qe7 20 Rxe5! followed by a crushing 21 Bxg6+.

SICILIAN DEFENSE
Katowice 2026

Emre Can	Sinisa Drazic
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	e6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	a6
5 c4	Nc6
6 Nc3	Nxd4
7 Qxd4	Ne7
8 Be3	Nc6
9 Qd2	b6
10 Be2	Bc5
11 O-O	d6
12 Rad1	Rb8
13 f4	Bb7
14 a3	e5?
15 fxe5	Nxe5?
16 Bxc5	dxc5
17 Rf5!	f6
18 Bh5+	g6
19 Qh6!	Qxd1+
20 Bxd1	Nf7
21 Qf4	Resigns



White to play and win.

M. Maurizzi-N. Filinash

Katowice 2026

Last week: 1...Qa3 2 Rb1 Ra4 3 Nc1 Rb4! wins.

Sunday Word Force

UNLETTERED

From the word or phrase above, form at least 16 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

Cy the Cynic says it will be interesting to see how long the meek can hold on to the Earth after they inherit it.

Bridge players, it seems, have abandoned meekness in the auction. The prevailing competitive style is aggressive, especially at favorable vulnerability. Players preempt on hands that, if they were any weaker, would be limp.

In today's deal, North opened with a lusty three clubs. If I'd been South, playing with somebody who would perpetrate three clubs, to bid 3NT wouldn't cross my mind. With a North who had some sense of discipline, I would bid five clubs. If North had a textbook preempt such as J5,6,976,KQJ9743, 3NT might be hopeless: I might never get to use dummy's clubs.

But South matched his partner's panache by bidding 3NT. All passed, and West led the king of hearts.

South must have hated his chances. He played low and ducked West's jack of hearts also. West next led the ten of spades, and South took the ace. He then led a club, and when West followed with the three, dummy played ... the four! East's ace won, but South won the spade return and led a second club to dummy's ten. He had 10 tricks.

South's only chance (which amounted to about three percent) was to find East with the bare ace of clubs. If either defender had the guarded ace, he would duck the first club, and dummy's clubs would be dead.

I fear that players who indulge in undisciplined preempts remember results like this one but forget the bad results that style generates. I prefer a textbook style; I like my partner to have some idea what I hold.

North dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 7 3
♡ 7
◇ 10 3 2
♣ K Q 10 7 5 4

WEST
♠ 10 4
♡ K Q J 9 2
◇ Q 8
♣ J 9 8 3

EAST
♠ Q J 9 6 5
♡ 8 6 5
◇ J 9 7 6
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ A K 2
♡ A 10 4 3
◇ A K 5 4
♣ 6 2

North	East	South	West
3 ♣(!)	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♡ K

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All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 58

Boggle® BrainBusters!™

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

U	T	H	A	R
E	N	A	K	O
X	A	S	L	R
S	W	O	A	F
O	I	H	D	I

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT U.S. STATES in the grid of letters.

______ ______

______ ______

______ ______

______ ______

7-12-26

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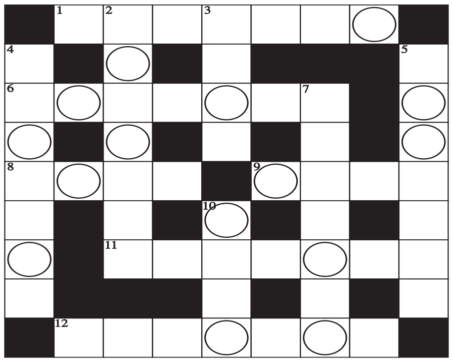
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



7-12-26

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Unkind	RULHTUF
6. Full of regret	HDSMEAA
8. Fixed period	RTME
9. Unlocked	NPEO
11. Bedroom bureau	RSEDSRE
12. Self-respect	NTIGIYD

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. Showed the way	DERUHES
3. Domesticated	EMTA
4. Photo wording	NOCIAPT
5. Hide-processing site	RNTNEYA
7. Bank addition	PDSEITO
10. Not fatty	EANL

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: Our solar system is home to two ____ ____.

○○○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○

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SCRABBLE® GRAMS

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RACK 1: A1 I1 I1 O1 G2 M3 R1

RACK 2: A1 E1 E1 I1 D2 N1 S1

RACK 3: E1 O1 O1 D2 B3 N1 K5 — Triple Word Score

RACK 4: E1 I1 O1 D2 W4 C3 H4 — 3rd Letter Double

RACK 5: O1 O1 U1 P3 R1 T1 C3

PAR SCORE 260-270
BEST SCORE 341

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

	1		12	8		4		2		5	
9	10	11	8		1	2				6	
3				11	6	12	9				
		5	2	12				9	7		
		1									
	9			2	5	11					8
5					12	8	1			10	
									3		
		12	11				4	8	6		
				4	10	6	3				7
	7	2			8	9		5	10	11	4
	12		10		11		2	3		9	

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Aliens, Anomaly, Area, Astronauts, Balloons, Base, Beacon, Believe, Binary, Blue, Capsule, Celestial, Chase, Close, Cloud, Comets, Contact, Cosmic, Crews, Data, Debris, Desert, Encounter, Europa, Extraterrestrial, Forest, Form, Galaxy, Hover, Invasion, Launch, Lights, Mars, Martian, Meteors, Mothership, Navigation, Objects, Orbit, Phoenix, Pilot, Planets, Probe, Radar, Recorded, Rendlesham, Rocket, Roswell, Satellite, Scan, Sci-Fi, Seen, Show, Signals, Sky, Spacecraft, Spaceships, Sphere, Stardust, Stories, System, Teams, Titan, Unidentified, Vessel, Visible, Warp, Weather, Wormhole, Xenon, X-File, Zenith, Zone

THE GREAT UFO DEBATE **SOLUTION: 11 LETTERS**

L	P	C	T	T	M	I	C	X	F	I	L	E	B	E	A	C	O	N	L
I	I	R	E	R	E	H	T	A	E	W	Y	R	A	N	I	B	A	A	E
F	H	G	O	L	E	K	N	V	P	N	O	I	S	A	V	N	I	V	V
I	S	F	H	B	E	S	C	I	M	S	O	C	E	E	O	R	H	I	E
C	R	M	P	T	E	S	E	O	E	R	U	N	U	M	T	C	S	G	I
S	E	S	E	R	S	U	T	D	R	E	P	L	A	S	N	I	S	A	L
P	H	T	I	T	A	N	N	I	X	N	B	L	E	U	B	C	E	T	E
H	T	S	I	R	E	W	T	I	A	D	Y	R	A	L	S	O	I	I	B
E	O	D	E	L	B	O	N	I	D	L	R	L	E	N	N	M	R	O	A
R	M	S	U	W	L	E	R	L	L	E	W	S	O	R	E	E	O	N	L
E	A	T	R	O	O	E	D	S	T	S	N	O	S	S	I	T	T	D	L
T	R	C	O	H	L	S	T	A	P	H	P	T	R	C	L	S	S	E	O
N	T	E	P	S	K	C	R	A	S	A	T	A	I	M	A	G	E	D	O
U	I	J	A	Y	Z	T	C	T	S	M	M	S	C	F	H	N	E	R	N
O	A	B	Z	E	X	E	C	A	A	F	A	E	U	E	I	O	N	O	S
C	N	O	N	E	S	A	R	E	V	O	H	E	T	D	C	E	L	C	P
N	N	I	S	H	T	A	L	R	O	R	B	I	T	S	R	R	D	E	I
E	T	O	I	N	D	T	H	A	V	E	S	S	E	L	Y	A	A	R	L
H	L	P	O	A	T	A	D	C	G	S	I	G	N	A	L	S	T	F	O
C	S	C	R	E	W	S	E	A	S	T	R	O	N	A	U	T	S	S	T

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Sna

By NY Post Staff

RIME' COUPLET

Eddie Cibrian and wife LeAnn Rimes visit Lake Hamilton, Ark., between her tour stops.

leannrimes/Instagram

PECK ON DECK

Justin and Hailey are meant to Biebs while on a boat in Idaho.

haileybieber/Instagram

BEE-UTY QUEEN

Alix Earle creates buzz by the pool with her summer style and abs.

alixearle/Instagram

LIQUID GOLD

Malin Akerman spent her July Fourth weekend coordinating her pants with her drinks!

malinakerman/Instagram

LABOR OF GLOVE

Charlize Theron is on a quest to be best dressed at the after-party for the London premiere of "The Odyssey."

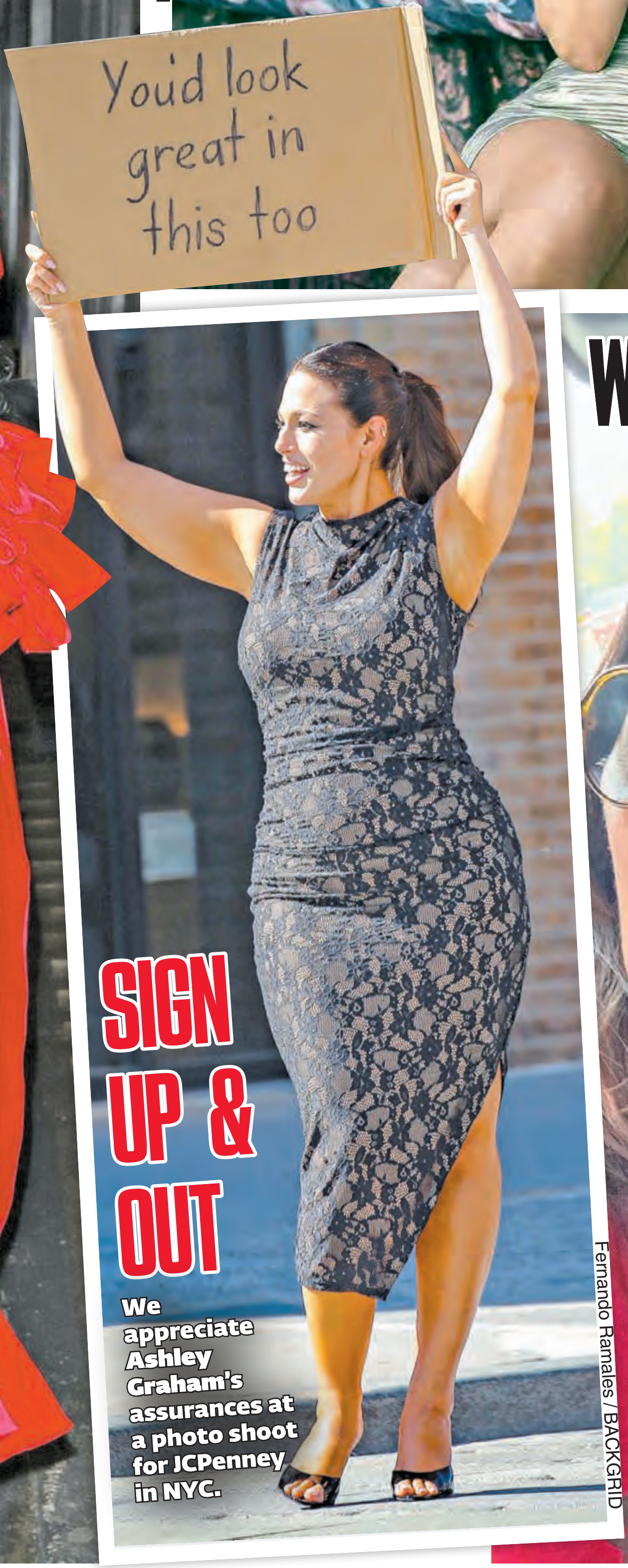
GC Images

POWER CORD

Lily Allen calls the shots during her set at the Roskilde Festival in Denmark.

Matt Jelonek/Getty Images

SIGN UP & OUT


You'd look great in this too

We appreciate **Ashley Graham's** assurances at a photo shoot for JCPenney in NYC.

Fernando Ramales / BACKGRID

WATCH 'EM COOK

"Top Chef" host **Padma Lakshmi** (left) and daughter **Krishna**, 16, take a food-focused trip to Mexico City.

padmalakshmi/Instagram

Snaps

RAIN OF TERROR

The city's stormy wind blows "This Is Us" actress **Chrissy Metz** all the way to Hudson Square.

Christopher Peterson/SplashNews.com

BUSINESS MODEL

Ben Stiller's got a really, really, ridiculously good-looking walk on the set of "A Matter of Time" in London.

Raw Image Ltd/Goff/SplashNews.com

BELT IT OUT!

Charli xcx finds another use for a belt while announcing the track list for her next album.

charli_xcx/Instagram

SAIL THE HUDSON

Kate Hudson flaunts her angles, while daughter **Rani**, 7, points out sights in Skiathos, Greece.

katehudson/Instagram

HOT LINE BLING

Stripes star Rihanna and partner A$AP Rocky brave the heat wave in Midtown.

Jairo/BACKGRID

HUD'S UP

Vanessa Hudgens spends the holiday weekend chilling out at a lake.

vanessahudgens/Instagram

Jessica Alba enjoys a love story set in Italy with boyfriend Danny Ramirez.

jessicaalba/Instagram

HOOT COUTURE

Gigi Hadid thrills bird watchers everywhere as she takes wing on the runway for Balenciaga in Paris.

Shutterstock

NOTE THE FINE PRINT

TIME LAPIS

Anne Hathaway, pregnant with her third child, greets the crowd at the Paris photo call of "The Odyssey."

GC Images

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS

LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9 a.m., ABC

Monday: Octavia Spencer (above), John Slattery

Tuesday: Grace Potter, Hannah Waddingham

Wednesday: Anya Taylor-Joy, Fortune Feimster

TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m., NBC

Monday: Tom Holland, Mary Steenburgen

Tuesday: Matt Damon, Anthony Michael Hall

Wednesday: Zendaya (above), Chrissy Metz

LATE NIGHT WITH SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m., NBC

Monday: Anne Hathaway (above)

Tuesday: Molly Shannon, Jake Johnson

Wednesday: Jon Bernthal, Stephanie Hsu

Sunday July 12, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Big Brother			First Marriage (R)	Marshals: Family Business (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Crossroads of
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	American Ninja Warrior: Western Regionals Finals Cutdown			WNBA Pre-Show Live.	WNBA Basketball: Indiana Fever at Las Vegas Aces from Michelob ULTRA Arena. Live.				News 4 New York at 11	News
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	The 1% Club: The 1% Smack Down (R)		The Simpsons (R)	Animal Control (R)	Universal Basic (R)	Grimsburg: Mo11y (R)	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth: Ron Desantis	Raw Travel (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos: Wedding Woes		(8:02) Home Videos (R)	(8:33) What About Bob? (1991, Comedy) Bill Murray, Richard Dreyfuss. PG ★★★					Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) Chicago Fire	Chicago P.D.: In a Duffel Bag		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Toe to Toe		Suits: Privilege	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	PIX 11 News at 6	Transformers (2007, Action): Rival clans of alien robots arrive on Earth in search of a powerful artifact. Shia LaBeouf. PG-13 ★★★						PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		New York Nightcap	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	(5:00) My Music Presents: 60s and 70s Soul Celebration			Patience: The Runes		Grantchester		Downton Abbey: Part Five		Murder in the Mountains: In The Dungeon (R)	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Fleetwood	Sally: A Solo Play			All New Rock, Pop and Doo Wop				Heal Gut, Mind Gundry, Md		
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Aktina TV	Buzz (2009)	Profiles	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Nightmare Theatre			
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Stop the Bleeding		NCIS: Personal Day		NCIS: Incognito		NCIS: Double Trouble		NCIS: Lockdown	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	La rosa de Guadalupe		Garra vs Veneno: Guerreros Mundiales				Complices		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo		(7:58) Operación Triunfo				Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Dear New	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning (R)			Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	(10:01) WWE LFG		WWE: Great	WWE: Great
AMC	54	43	231	Back to the Future (1985, Science Fiction) Michael J. Fox. PG ★★★★					The Vampire Lestat		(10:15) The Vampire Lestat: Montreal			Breakfast R
BBCAM	71	101	189	(5:30) Field of Dreams (1989, Fantasy)			Major League (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger. R ★★★					Major League II (1994) Charlie Sheen.		
BET	37	54	270	America R	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Family Feud: Gronkoswki		(11:20) Family Feud	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		The Real Housewives of Atlanta			Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		In City (R)
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Pro Padel League Taped.				Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		The Salisbury Poisonings: A Spy Next Door (2026)				The Salisbury Poisonings: A Spy Next Door (2026)			
COMEDY	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	South Park
DISC	66	27	120	Naked & Afraid: Global: Broken Spirits			Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown: Smoking the				(10:01) Eye of Storm		Eye of Storm: Spin City	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Ratatouille (2007, Comedy) Patton Oswalt. G ★★★½				Dragon	Dragon	Vampirina	Wizards	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) Ocean's Eleven (2001, Crime)			Ocean's Twelve (2004, Crime) George Clooney. PG-13 ★★½						Ocean's Thirteen (2007)	
ESPN	28	36	70	Countdown	WNBA Basketball: Chicago Sky at Dallas Wings.				NBA Summer League Live.				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	NBA Live.	X Games Chiba 2026				WSL: Pro Surf		X Games		Monster Energy'	
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		One Nation		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	100 Cooks: 18 Cooks		100 Cooks: The Last 14		Food Network's Top 10		Food Network's Top 10	
FREE	38	49	199	Up (2009)	(6:55) Finding Nemo (2003, Family) Albert Brooks. G ★★★½					Finding Dory (2016, Adventure) Ellen DeGeneres. PG				Crocodile
FS1	400	99	83	(6:00) Summer of '94 (2026)			2026 FIFA World Cup: Norway at England. Replay.				2026 FIFA World Cup: Argentina at Switzerland.			
FX	10	40	53	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017)			Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (2023, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★½							Bad Boys R
HALL		191	240	(6:00) O Little Christmas Market (2026)			Following Yonder Star (2024) John Brotherton.				Once Upon a Christmas Miracle (2018) ★★★			
HGTV	64	98	165	Renovation	Renovation Aloha		Renovation Island		Love It or List It		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Hazardous	Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History		(10:03) Food Built		Food Built: Spilling the T.	
ID	23	171	123	Joe Kenda	Detective with Lt. Kenda		Bodies in the Water		Surviving a Serial Killer		Case Paula Zahn		Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	The Wife Who Knew Too Much (2025)			Someone's Always Watching (2026)				Terror Comes Knocking (2025) Marisa McIntyre. NR			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collectors	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Family	Family
MSG	27	87	78	Odds	Team Boxing League: San Antonio Snipers at Philadelphia Smoke					Fight Sports: EFC 350		Fight Sports: WCK 385		Team
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) INTENNSE Tennis Replay.			PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		The Briefing with Jen		Crooked on MS NOW		The Weekend	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Blended (2014, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½					(9:35) The Wedding Singer (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½				
NATGEO	65	162	121	(6:00) Jaws	Croc That Ate (R)		Jaws Invasion (R)		Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story (2025) NR				Sharks Gone Viral (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	48 Hours:	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
PARMT	36	56	54	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue: Long Island		Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue (R)	
SNY	26	60	77	Amazin'	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Cape Cod Baseball League: Bourne Braves at Falmouth Commodores. Taped.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018) Chris Pratt.				Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★½					Red 2 (2013) Bruce Willis.	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) In Which We Serve (1942)			Rear Window (1954, Thriller) James Stewart. NR ★★★★				High Society (1956, Musical) Bing Crosby. NR ★★★			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: I'm Questioning Everything (R)				(10:01) 90 Day Diaries		(11:01) Jay & Pamela (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	NASCAR	NASCAR Cup Series: Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart Live.							NASCAR Na.	Impractical	Impractical
TVLAND	85	34	241	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	(6:00) Breaking In (2018, Thriller) ★★			In Too Deep (1999, Thriller) LL Cool J. R ★★½					Enough (2002, Drama) Jennifer Lopez.		
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: Broken		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds	
YES	53	89	76	Major League Cricket: MI New York at Washington Freedom. Live.					Yankeeography		MLB Baseball Replay.			
HBO	511	301	400	Dragon (R)	(6:53) Of the Dragon (R)		(7:57) Of the Dragon (R)		House of the Dragon		(10:06) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:12) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Elevation R	(6:53) Green Lantern (2011, Action) ★★½			(8:47) Shazam! (2019, Action) Zachary Levi, Mark Strong. PG-13 ★★★					Shazam! Fury (2023)	
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:20) Project Hail Mary (2026, Drama) Ryan Gosling. PG-13					The Westies		The Westies		The Westies	
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:15) The Expend4bles (2023, Action) R			The Chi: Ice Box		The Chi: Cold Hearted		The Expendables (2010) R ★★½			The Chi

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1 IN THE CITY

New episodes air Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on Bravo, stream next day on Peacock

BABY GOT BACKUP

Georgina Ferzli says she was 'very strong' in how she showed up at the upcoming 'In the City' reunion

Georgina Ferzli (left) stars on Bravo's "In the City."

Brian Zak / NY Post

By KAREN KEMMERLE

GEORGINA Ferzli is hitting her stride on **"In The City."** Even though she's one of Lindsay Hubbard's BFFs, Ferzli never thought being part of a hit TV show on Bravo was in her future. "I always saw reality TV as Lindsay's job, like being a dermatologist is my job," said Ferzli, noting that this whole experience has been a "surprise" to her. "I thought it was a great opportunity and would definitely force me to socialize because I never go out."

In addition to her multiple jobs, Ferzli is also raising two beautiful children—Robert and Eloise—as a single mom following a difficult split from her ex. So, it's not surprising that Ferzli was offended after castmate Whitney Fransway accused Hubbard of playing the "single mom card" following the room debacle on the group's trip to Connecticut. While Hubbard was consumed with healing her riff with bestie Yvonne Najor, Ferzli confirmed that Fransway's comment did in fact register with Hubbard. "On that particular night, Lindsay and I were both coming off three nights of solo parenting," explained Ferzli. "She wasn't affected because she just really needed to take a nap. But she's affected now, trust me."

Ferzli teased that both she and Hubbard address Fransway's uncalled-for comment at the show's upcoming reunion. "I definitely speak up for mothers," said Ferzli. " I was definitely a bit aggressive at the reunion. Looking back, maybe I'm not so proud of that, but I think what I said is important." Funnily enough, three cast members—Danielle Olivera, Lexi Sundin, and Yvonne Najor—were all pregnant at the reunion, so it's clear that Hubbard and Ferzli had the backup they needed. "It's wonderful to add three more babies to the group," said Ferzli. "I'm excited because hopefully our kids will grow up together."

DECIDER: You met Lindsay Hubbard through your dermatology practice and the rest is history! What made you realize that she could be a friend as well as a client?

GEORGINA FERZLI: I got that sense right away. There have been times when I have wanted to be friends with my patients, but once I'm their friend, I can't really be their doctor most of the time. It's different with Lindsay. I remember actually when I knew we'd be friends. She had brought in Jaclyn Shuman, who was on **"Summer House"** at one time. Jaclyn's loud, man. Lindsay pulled me aside and was like, "You need to put her in a different room." I made some comment, and she looked at me and she was like, "You're really funny." I was like, "That's the best compliment I've ever gotten." We then got to chatting, and since it was a late night at the office, we went and got drinks after the appointment. That was the start of our friendship.

You've been very open about your struggles with raising your kids and balancing motherhood with all your other obligations. Has it been therapeutic to talk about?

Very much so. I didn't expect it to be, but when you're saying things out loud and sharing them, it's a different experience than just thinking and feeling them. It's been good for me in many ways. It's amazing to see how many messages come in from other moms who are like, "I went through the same thing." I had somebody message me the other day saying she's pregnant and her husband just broke up with her. I went back and forth with her for a while. I'm helping people. That's meant the world to me. That's been more therapeutic than anything else.

How was your first reunion experience? Did you address Whitney's comment further?

I felt I was very strong in the way I showed up. I definitely speak up for mothers. Everyone says you don't get "it" until you're a mom yourself. To some capacity, that's true, but not really because someone like Yvonne understood how that comment would hit and she wasn't a mother yet. I was definitely a bit aggressive at the reunion. Looking back, maybe I'm not so proud of that but I think what I said is important.

2 MARRIED AT FIRST SIGHT

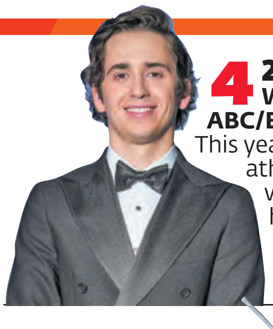
Sunday, Peacock

The reality franchise returns with Season 20, where singles take the leap and tie the knot with a complete stranger.

3 LUCKY

Wednesday, Apple TV

Anya Taylor-Joy (right) stars in this new thriller series based on Marisa Stapley's 2021 novel of the same name.



4 2026 ESPY AWARDS

Wednesday 8 p.m., ABC/ESPN+

This year's awards show honoring athletes and celebrities in the world of sports will be hosted by **"Saturday Night Live"** star **Marcello Hernández** (left).

5 RIDE OR DIE

Wednesday, Prime Video

This new series headlined by **Octavia Spencer** (right) and Hannah Waddingham follows two best friends, one of whom is an international assassin.

6 THE REAL WOLF OF WALL STREET

Tuesday, Paramount+

The new three-part docuseries centers on the rise and fall of former stockbroker Jordan Belfort, and those he led astray.

7 THEY FIGHT

Friday, Hulu

Based on the 2018 documentary—also titled "They Fight"—the film stars André Holland as the real-life Walt Manigan, an ex-con who becomes a youth boxing coach.

8 THE HAWK

Thursday, Netflix

Will Ferrell (right) plays a golf legend looking to get his groove back on the green in this new comedy series.

Sally Brompton

Daily Horoscope

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♋ **CANCER (June 22-July 23)**
There is no way you are going to change someone's mind about what they choose to believe, even if you flood them with facts and figures to prove your case. All you can do is accept that it's possible to disagree and still share the same space.

♌ **LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)**
It's not like you to lack confidence but a series of negative influences at the start of the week could bring your mood down a bit and make it hard to make quick decisions. Maybe that's no bad thing. Maybe you need to reflect a bit on your goals.

♍ **VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)**
Venus in your sign will soothe your fears but could also lull you into a false sense of security. The message of the stars now is that you must take nothing on trust, especially if there is money at stake. A little suspicion is no bad thing.

♎ **LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**
If you are overly critical with someone you love you could find they choose to keep their distance over the next few days, which will not only be unfortunate but could also be counter-productive. Try to make your criticisms sound like praise.

♏ **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**
You need to be sensible about the aims you are setting yourself. The planets warn you seem to have a blind spot about something you are working on as part of a team. At the very least you must make sure your colleagues share the same goals.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)**
Don't worry too much if you lose interest in something you have been working on for weeks, months, maybe even years. It's clear to everyone else that you need a break, so allow yourself to focus on something that you enjoy doing simply for the pleasure of it.

♑ **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)**
If you try to do ten things at once over the next few days you may end up finishing nothing at all. As one of the zodiac's Earth signs you should know from experience that success rarely comes from scattering your energy. Do just one thing really well.

♒ **AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)**
A clash of egos is likely over the coming week and it may result in a parting of the ways. Sometimes in life you have to accept that you are dealing with people you are never going to get along with, and this is one of those times.

♓ **PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**
A series of emotional upheavals are likely this week and you could find yourself at the eye of the storm. That may though be a good thing in that you know how to deal with high-risk situations. Your peace-making skills will be much in demand.

♈ **ARIES (March 21-April 20)**
If you focus on duty rather than pleasure you will get a lot done but won't enjoy it too much. You need to find a way to divide your time between work obligations and your desire to do things with people who make you smile. It's called planning.

♉ **TAURUS (April 21-May 21)**
If you try to fit in with other people's plans this week they will take that as a sign of weakness and make even more demands of you. You may not want to be confrontational but you must stand up for yourself, because no one else will.

♊ **GEMINI (May 22-June 21)**
If you make an effort to be nice to people, even those who do not deserve it, you may be surprised by how well they respond. Like you they don't actually want to cause a scene, so your gentle approach will be appreciated and returned in kind.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

A Sun-Mercury link on your birthday will focus your mind on what needs to be done but there is a danger you could become too dedicated to one particular goal and miss out on the fun things in life. Whatever you do, make sure you smile every day.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

P	L	A	N	A	■	D	O	D	O	■	■	S	K	I	S	■	M	O	S	S
L	E	C	A	R	■	I	P	A	D	■	■	C	E	N	T	■	A	P	O	P
U	N	A	P	T	■	S	A	N	D	■	S	I	N	C	E	■	R	E	L	Y
S	A	I	L	E	D	C	L	O	S	E	T	O	T	H	E	W	I	N	D	■
■	■	■	E	S	E	■	■	■	A	M	O	R	E	■	L	A	O	■	■	■
M	E	S	S	I	A	H	■	P	R	I	O	R	■	A	T	I	N	G	L	E
A	L	E	■	A	N	O	T	H	E	R	P	A	I	R	O	F	E	Y	E	S
L	I	N	E	N	■	W	O	O	■	■	■	■	V	I	E	■	T	R	A	M
I	T	E	M	■	F	D	R	■	C	E	L	I	A	■	■	A	T	O	N	E
B	E	C	O	M	E	U	N	G	O	V	E	R	N	A	B	L	E	■	■	■
U	S	A	■	B	E	L	■	A	M	I	N	O	■	M	E	A	■	C	O	B
■	■	■	F	A	L	L	F	L	A	T	O	N	O	N	E	S	F	A	C	E
P	A	R	I	S	■	■	E	S	S	E	X	■	L	E	T	■	O	N	U	S
S	C	A	R	■	N	S	A	■	■	■	■	H	A	S	■	A	G	I	L	E
S	H	R	E	K	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	A	F	T	E	R	■	N	A	T
T	E	E	B	A	L	L	■	R	A	D	O	N	■	Y	A	M	M	E	R	S
■	■	■	E	N	D	■	A	M	N	I	O	■	■	■	R	Y	E	■	■	■
■	C	O	N	T	R	A	D	I	C	T	I	O	N	I	N	T	E	R	M	S
B	I	R	D	■	A	L	I	N	E	■	B	L	O	C	■	E	M	A	I	L
R	A	Z	E	■	F	L	O	E	■	■	O	G	R	E	■	N	A	C	R	E
B	O	O	R	■	T	O	S	S	■	■	S	A	I	D	■	T	W	E	E	D

Su Doku

4	8	1	2	7	3	9	5	6
3	7	6	1	9	5	8	4	2
5	2	9	8	4	6	7	1	3
7	4	5	3	6	8	1	2	9
1	6	8	7	2	9	5	3	4
2	9	3	5	1	4	6	7	8
6	1	7	4	8	2	3	9	5
9	3	4	6	5	7	2	8	1
8	5	2	9	3	1	4	6	7

Very Easy #7,337

5	2	8	6	4	9	1	7	3
3	6	1	8	7	5	4	2	9
7	4	9	2	1	3	6	8	5
1	3	2	9	8	6	7	5	4
6	9	5	4	2	7	3	1	8
4	8	7	5	3	1	2	9	6
2	5	3	7	6	8	9	4	1
8	1	4	3	9	2	5	6	7
9	7	6	1	5	4	8	3	2

Difficult #7,127

3	4	7	8	1	2	5	9	6
6	9	8	4	5	3	2	7	1
1	2	5	7	6	9	4	3	8
2	7	4	9	8	1	6	5	3
5	6	1	3	2	4	7	8	9
8	3	9	6	7	5	1	4	2
9	8	6	1	4	7	3	2	5
4	1	2	5	3	8	9	6	7
7	5	3	2	9	6	8	1	4

Challenging #563

Super Su Doku

7	1	6	12	8	3	4	10	2	11	5	9
9	10	11	8	7	1	2	5	4	12	6	3
3	2	4	5	11	6	12	9	10	8	7	1
8	11	5	2	12	4	1	6	9	7	3	10
12	4	1	7	10	9	3	8	6	5	2	11
10	9	3	6	2	5	11	7	1	4	12	8
5	6	7	4	3	12	8	1	11	9	10	2
1	8	10	9	6	2	5	11	7	3	4	12
2	3	12	11	9	7	10	4	8	6	1	5
11	5	9	1	4	10	6	3	12	2	8	7
6	7	2	3	1	8	9	12	5	10	11	4
4	12	8	10	5	11	7	2	3	1	9	6

Kakuro

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	8	7	9	2	■	■	9	2
■	5	2	3	6	1	■	2	8	4
■	3	1	2	■	■	1	4	■	■
■	2	4	1	■	3	5	1	2	■
■	9	7	■	5	1	2	■	5	1
■	■	3	9	8	7	■	1	4	2
■	■	■	7	9	■	■	8	9	4
■	9	5	8	■	4	6	2	1	3
■	4	2	■	■	7	9	4	8	■

Kakuro #563

KEN KEN

5 5	30× 3	2	5– 1	6	7+ 4
1– 4	1– 6	5	2÷ 2	1	3
3	5	5– 6	20× 4	2÷ 2	1
8× 2	4	1	5	1– 3	30× 6
5– 1	7+ 2	3 3	2÷ 6	4	5
6	1	4	3	3– 5	2

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Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Hurtful 6A-Ashamed 8A-Term 9A-Open 11A-Dresser 12A-Dignity 2D-Ushered 3D-Tame 4D-Caption 5D-Tannery 7D-Deposit 10D-Lean B-Moonless planets

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

OHIO, IOWA, UTAH, IDAHO, TEXAS, KANSAS, ALASKA, ARKANSAS

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

O_1	R_1	I_1	G_2	A_1	M_3	I_1	RACK 1 =	60
A_1	N_1	I_1	S_1	E_1	E_1	D_2	RACK 2 =	58
B_3	O_1	O_1	K_5	E_1	N_1	D_2	RACK 3 =	92
C_3	O_1	W_4	H_4	I_1	D_2	E_1	RACK 4 =	70
O_1	U_1	T_1	C_3	R_1	O_1	P_3	RACK 5 =	61
							TOTAL	341

PAR SCORE 260-270

Sunday Word Force

deter
elder
elude
enter
enure
etude
lured
relet
ruled
tenet
terne
trend
tuner
tutee
under
utter

Wonderword answer: INVESTIGATE

PostBusiness

THE WEEK'S WINNERS

JEFF BEZOS
Blue Origin is reportedly kicking off a $10 billion fundraising round that values the billionaire's rocket company at $130 billion.

DELL
President Trump told Americans to "go out and buy a Dell computer," sending shares of the Texas tech giant soaring last week.

BROADCOM
Strikes a new $30 billion deal with longtime partner Apple to produce more than 15 billion chips on US soil.

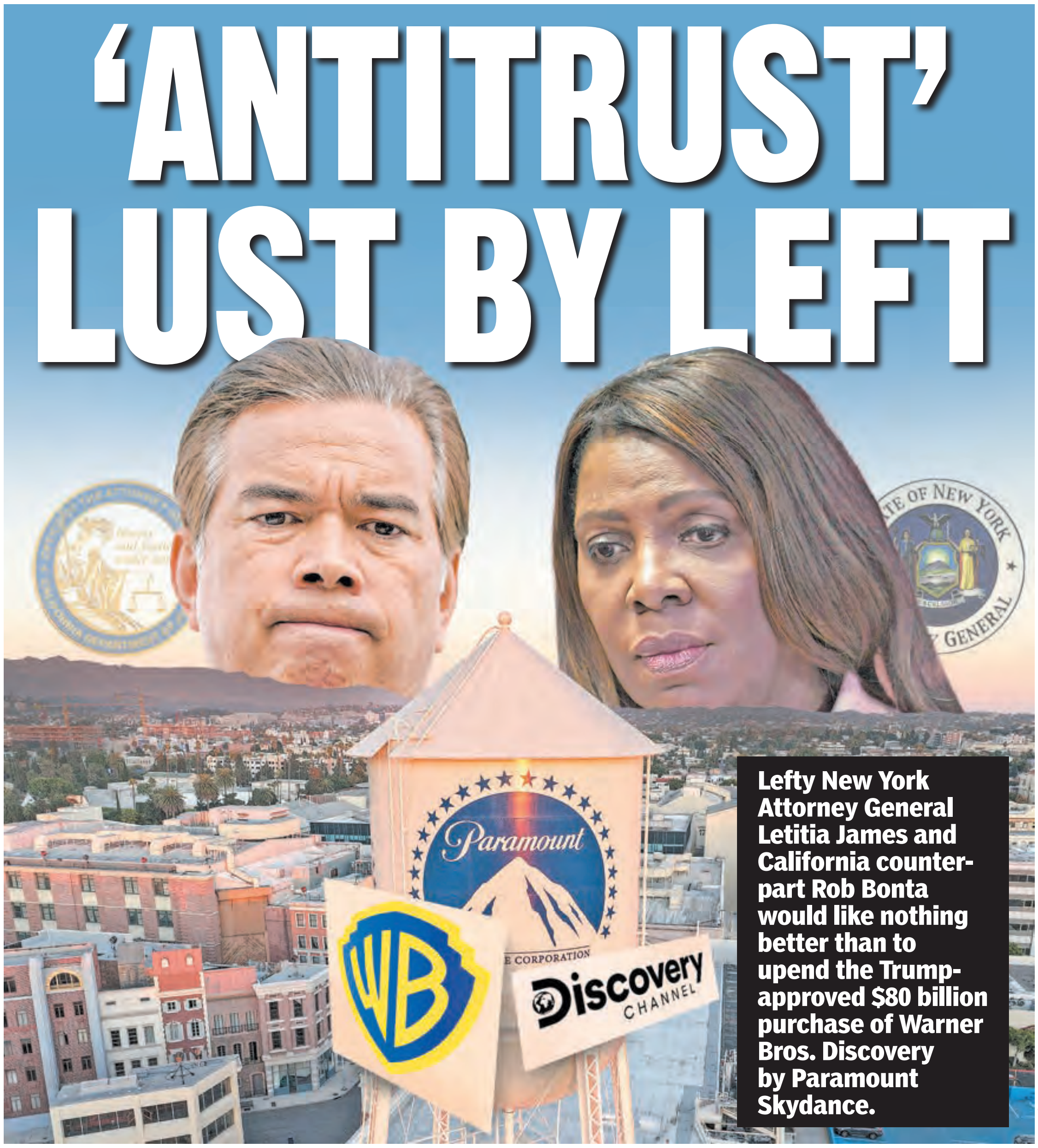
LOSERS

SUNG MOO "SAM" CHO
Rogue ex-Citi investment adviser could face up to 25 years in prison after he admitted to looting $3.5 million from a client's lifesavings.

MARK ZUCKERBERG
European regulators warned Meta boss to make big changes to Facebook and Instagram's "addictive" features or face steep fines.

CAL-MAINE FOODS
Family that founded egg empire reportedly pocketed $320 million as feds probed an alleged price-fixing scheme.

'ANTITRUST' LUST BY LEFT



Lefty New York Attorney General Letitia James and California counterpart Rob Bonta would like nothing better than to upend the Trump-approved $80 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery by Paramount Skydance.

NY Post Design

AGs eyeing 'political' lawsuit vs. takeover?

CHARLES GASPARINO

LAWYERS for Warner Bros. Discovery recently briefed top executives on the risks of an antitrust suit getting filed by some lefty state attorneys general to upend the $80 billion WBD sale to Paramount Skydance — and the operative word is "politics," The Post has learned.

The case is a dud on antitrust grounds, they said. There's very little overlap when you combine these companies. Where overlap exists (in terms of two big studios, streaming services), consumer-pricing concerns are negligible given the vast changes going on in the media business.

"So why the hell do we have to worry about this?" came the obvious question from one senior executive during the sit-down.

The answer, the lawyers said, is "politics."

Indeed, that should be the headline when the lawsuit is filed by a coterie of ambitious Democrats, as is expected sometime in the coming days. But it won't be front and center of the coverage, of course, because most reporters genuflect to the left even when it's absurd to do so.

Also the politics in this case will be too hard to resist — for the media and for the pols behind it — since it involves President Trump, who is friends with the money behind the deal, Paramount's David Ellison and his longtime, Trump-backing father, Larry Ellison.

Months of Trump bashing, conjuring images of the president controlling news reporting from CBS (a Paramount property) and CNN (WBD's cable news network) is too much to resist for that ambitious pol, California AG Rob Bonta, who will likely be leading the charge alongside another equally lefty ambitious pol, New York AG Tish James.

It's certainly not the merits of an antitrust case, which according to every lawyer I speak to is weak on so many legal metrics that it's almost hard to imagine how a court just won't throw it out.

Where it's strong is in the sense that it helps whip up the Democratic base as the midterms approach. Bonta might just get his name in the papers enough to make him governor some day. Who knows what James has in mind, though she's never missed a chance to screw with Trump to score cheap political points.

Bonta, meanwhile, will be channeling the Hollywood community, morons like actor Mark Ruffalo who think the merger might somehow stifle left-wing voices; if it doesn't go through somehow they will get more work at higher pay from two companies caught in big media's erosion. Yes, they're dumb. But Ruffalo & Co. have a voice where it matters in this drama, and that's Hollywood, which Bonta needs to finance his political future.

Hollywood hate for Don

And Hollywood, like the media, loves bashing Trump, and three months of it (the approximate time lawyers for WBD believe it will take for this thing to wind its way through the legal process) is the gift that keeps on giving.

As we all know, Trump dominates in places where his presence is real and not so real. Paramount Skydance is run by the Ellison family. For partisan Dems used to controlling the nation's cultural institutions, having a Trump supporter at the helm of such a swath of media and entertainment (news plus the Paramount and Warner Bros. studios) must be like holding a cross to a vampire.

The president also likes to throw his weight around when it comes to the media that has long enjoyed skewing its coverage against him, and are now getting payback. It's why so many caved to those lawsuits he brought (e.g., over the "60 Minutes" interview of Kamala Harris) in order to get his regulatory blessing on various corporate financings. Recall how Trump's DOJ Antitrust Division seemed to check all the boxes to approve Ellison's purchase of WBD in record time.

But the last I checked, Trump — who has about 2½ years left in his presidency — isn't whom the Ellisons will ultimately be answering to if and when these two companies are merged. They have a legal, "fiduciary" responsibility to shareholders, and that is to make money. If you're worried that they will take "60 Minutes" to the right, suppose that's what consumers want? If they do and fail, they will have to move its programming back to the left, if that's what helps them make money and create that all-important "shareholder value."

In many ways, the political argument fails even worse than the antitrust argument, but that's only if you're being intellectually honest. I'm not counting on Bonta or James on that last point.

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL

Senior Accountant in NY, NY to mintain B/S & P&L accts; Suport tax & regu filings; Monitor intrnl contrls; Recncilations; Streamline systms & proceses; Anual audits & prep FS in acc w/ GAAP; Liaise w/ ntrnal/xtrnl auditrs, tax acountnts & reg teams; Mnge bnking setlemnts; Comp reg reqts for 15c3-3 Reserv Calc; Comp & monitor RAC levels for Canadian broker dealer; Mth-end closing process, recon accts, book closing entris, analyz fluctuations; Prep resrv calcs for futures & brokerage customers. Reqd: MS in Acctg or Finance; 6mths exp as Accountant or Acctg Associate, in acctg analysis, fin'l reporting in acc w/ GAAP, prep budgets, mth-end reprtng. $97,406/yearly. Send CVs to Bianca Leavitt, Sr Associate, Recruiting, Webull Management, 200 Carillon Pkwy, St Petersburg, FL 33716.

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Administrative Coordinator (Dix Hills) Coordinate administrative services such as records, finances and budgets to aid management in wholesale perfume distribution operations. Email resume to Brooklyn Point USA Inc. at brooklynpointusa@gmail.com

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Head Taekwondo Instructor, Min: Assoc's Deg in Physical Education. Salary: $55,203.00/Yr. Send resume to Newtopia Enterprise Inc. (D/B/A Korea Taekwondo) @ 130-30 31st Ave, Flushing, NY 11354

Nanny – Rye Brook NY- F/T 3 mos exp to prvd chldcare in a prvt hshold. $36,000/YR. Resume to 6 Edgewood Dr, Rye Brook, NY 10573 Attn: Mrs. Shalem.

PROFESSIONAL

Management Analyst - NY, NY - Analyze & comprehend bar's ops & fin needs by eval sales data, cost reports, inv records, staffing models, & cust feedback; Analyze mgmt methods & procedures re: F&B cost ctrl, inv mgmt, staffing allocation, svc efficiency, & vendor perf; conduct interviews, mkt research, & onsite observations; Prep & implmt mgmt plans, ops strategies, ctrls, & SOPs; Monitor & forecast KPIs, incl rev, labor costs, F&B costs, margins, & inv turnover; Eval solutions & conduct work simplification & cost-efficiency studies; Dvlp mgmt improvements, cost-reduction strategies, rev enhancement initiatives, & svc qlty prgms; Review & analyze fin stmts, payroll records, & POS data; Research & ensure compliance with fed, state, & local regs. BS in biz mgmt, project mgmt, biz admin, or rltd w/24m exp in same or similar one such as Mgmt Analyst or Biz Analyst. $74,402/yr. Send cv to Six Square Management LLC, 356 Bowery, Lower Level, NY, NY 10012.

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DIRECTOR, Project Management – Next League LLC, New York, NY. Direct, lead, & oversee proj mgmt of portfolio w/in assigned Biz Unit. Provide recomm'ns to assigned projs. Monitor prog of portfolio. Create weekly proj status for complex budgets. Address prgm obstacles. Establish relationships w/ client team members. Create best practices for process & procedures to measure project health. Provide & implmnt recomm'ns to improve Proj Mgmt processes & templates. Comm w/ all levels of org on all matters rltd to projs. Rsrch solutions to ensure sufficient resource availability; provide reliable estimates of resource alloc'ns req'd for proj success. Hire, train, mentor, & mng a team of Proj Mngrs. Foster collaborative & productive wrk environ. Set clear expectations, goals, & performance metrics for Proj Mgmt Team. Provide regular feedback, conduct performance eval'n, & idntfy opps for skill dvlpmnt for direct reports. Reqmts: Master's degree – Telecommunications [Engg] or rltd field. Min 24 mos in sponsored position [Director of Proj Mgmt] or in a Proj Mgmt position or rltd field. Proven exp leading proj mgmt teams for software dvlpmnt prods w/in a client-facing consulting or prof'l srvcs environ. Demonstrated ability & exp w/ prod mngrs, engg teams & key stakeholders from different biz functions. Strong customer focus preferable for deliverables targeting 3rd-party software. Position is 100% remote. 9AM-6PM. Submit resume w/ salary reqmts via email to Recruiting@nextleague.com

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Market Research Analyst for Lixi Hospitality Tarrytown LLC, F/T in Tarrytown, NY. Anlyz consumer behavior, competitor activities, & digital mkt trends using statistical anlys & machine learning to support data-driven mktg decisions. Eval advtg performance & campaign metrics thru A/B testing & regression anlys to optimize ROI. Interpret complex data using predictive modeling & segmentation techniques to refine pricing, targeting, & advtg strats. Assess mktg effectiveness by dvlpg KPI dashboards & applying attribution anlys to improve visibility, engagement, & sales outcomes. Must have a Bachelor's Deg in Data Sci & 12-mos working exp rltd to data analytics. Email resumes to linglixigroup@gmail.com.

Plant Scientist. Shirley, NY. Manage farms, experimental fields, & greenhouses of agricultural research & breeding organization; soil testing, fertilizer planning, & implementation of sustainable practices; research & cultivation of specialty crops; monitor plant health & collect production data. Req'd: BS Agricultural Chemistry or related; knowledge of plant biochemistry, crop cultivation, plant pathology, mechanics of plant protection. M-F, 9-5. Salary: $57,470/yr. Send resume to Job #2, Lifeasible, 17 Ramsey Rd., Ste. 209, Shirley, NY 11967

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NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

THE DISTRICT COURT OF CENTRAL DISTRICT – LOD, ISRAEL
Future Meat Technologies Ltd., (Company Registration No. 515799641)
(In Temporary Operation), Case No.: Insolvency 89484-12-25
INVITATION TO SUBMIT BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SHARES AND/OR OPERATIONS AND/OR ASSETS

Advocate Yoel Freilich, in his capacity as the Trustee for the Company's assets, hereby invites bids for the purchase of the Company's shares and/or its operations and/or its assets ("**the Assets**").

The Company is a private entity that has developed technology to produce cultivated meat from animal cells through a controlled industrial process, without the need for raising or slaughtering animals. The Company has developed intellectual property, including several registered patents, and has received regulatory approvals based on strict standards for the technology it developed.

Believers Meat is a pioneer in the cultivated meat industry and offers more than patents. Its value is the technology and Know-how in practical scale-up of cultivated-meat production: cell lines, media logic, bioreactor operation, perfusion strategy, centrifuge integration, automation recipes, harvest/wash procedures, and process data generated through Israeli pilot-scale development and transferred into large-facility design. The IP and Know-how assets are attractive because it shortens the path from laboratory biology to a manufacturing platform.

Investor Kit: An investor kit containing documents related to the sale may be obtained by emailing: office@gissinlaw.co.il, subject to the signing of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

Submission of Bids: Bids for the purchase of shares and/or operations and/or assets must be submitted to the aforementioned email address, utilizing the bid form included in the investor kit, **no later than July 22, 2026, at 22:00 (Israel Time).**

Bid Bond: Each bid must be accompanied by a bank draft or an autonomous, unconditional bank guarantee, linked to the Consumer Price Index, in the amount of **10% of the bid** value (plus VAT, as applicable by law). The validity of the guarantee must be for a period of 6 months from the date of submission.

The Assets will be sold in their current legal and physical condition, "AS IS WHERE IS." The responsibility for conducting all due diligence, including regarding the Company's assets, business and financial operations, legal status, rights, contracts, factual, economic, and legal data, and any other information the bidder deems necessary, rests solely with the bidder, at their own expense and risk. The Trustee and/or anyone on their behalf shall bear no responsibility for any representations or undertakings regarding the Company, its shares, operations, or assets. The bidder may not rely on this notice or any other representations.

This invitation shall not be construed as a public offering for the purchase of the Company's shares as defined under Israeli law; it does not constitute a tender, and tender laws shall not apply.

The Trustee reserves the right to negotiate with bidders, to terminate negotiations at any stage, to conduct an auction (bidding process), to extend the submission deadline, and is not obligated to accept the highest bid or any bid at all, at their sole and absolute discretion. Priority will be given to the sale of the Company as a "going concern" (as a whole).

The bid bond of any bidder who withdraws their offer after it has been accepted as the winning bid, or prior to the application for court approval, or fails to sign the purchase agreement as prepared by the undersigned, shall be forfeited.

This document does not constitute a basis for any engagement, nor is it a representation on behalf of the Company or the Trustee.

The sale is subject to the approval of the District Court of Central District in Lod, Israel.

Yoel Freilich, Advocate
Gissin & Co., Advocates
38 HaBarzel St., Tel Aviv, Israel

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of LexLoo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Jadestone Fortune LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Feona Yeung: 118 Secatogue Ave, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of PRESHABBOS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Golf

PGA Tour/DP World Tour- Genesis Scottish Open
At The Renaissance Club; North Berwick, United Kingdom; Purse: $9 million; Yardage: 7,282; Par: 70
Partial Third Round
Suspended due to fog

John Keefer,	68-68-64_200	-10
Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen	68-68-65_201	-9
Marcus Armitage	68-67-67_202	-8
Mac Meissner	71-67-64_202	-8
Tyrrell Hatton	70-66-67_203	-7
Tommy Fleetwood	67-70-66_203	-7
Si Woo Kim	70-67-66_203	-7
Alejandro Del Rey	72-66-65_203	-7
Oliver Lindell	66-69-69_204	-6
Casey Jarvis	68-68-68_204	-6
Francesco Molinari	68-69-67_204	-6
Matti Schmid	68-69-67_204	-6
Austin Eckroat	70-66-69_205	-5
Ryan Fox	71-65-69_205	-5
Calum Hill	67-69-69_205	-5
Andy Sullivan	68-68-69_205	-5
Justin Thomas	69-67-69_205	-5
Mikael Lindberg	69-68-68_205	-5
Tom McKibbin	67-71-67_205	-5
J.J. Spaun	68-70-67_205	-5
Jesper Svensson	70-68-67_205	-5
Ricky Castillo	70-66-70_206	-4
Cameron Davis	70-66-70_206	-4
Andrew Putnam	71-65-70_206	-4
Chris Kirk	70-67-69_206	-4
Nick Taylor	70-67-69_206	-4
Jon Rahm	73-65-68_206	-4
Laurie Canter	69-68-70_207	-3
Nicolas Echavarria	68-70-69_207	-3
Max Greyserman	69-69-69_207	-3
Viktor Hovland	68-70-69_207	-3
Jacques Kruyswijk	69-69-69_207	-3
Corey Conners	67-70-71_208	-2
Brian Harman	70-68-70_208	-2
Rasmus Hojgaard	65-73-70_208	-2
Michael Brennan	67-71-71_209	-1
Kurt Kitayama	66-72-71_209	-1
Shaun Norris	68-70-71_209	-1

LPGA Tour- The Amundi Evian Championship
At Evian Resort Golf Club; Evian-les-Bains, France; Purse: $9.1 million; Yardage: 6,479; Par: 71
Third Round

Hae-Ran Ryu	66-68-60	194	-19
Aki Iwai	63-69-65	197	-16
Brooke Henderson	67-70-64	201	-12
Mao Saigo	66-68-67	201	-12
Casandra Alexander	73-66-63	202	-11
Jeeno Thitikul	72-64-67	203	-10
Lottie Woad	67-64-72	203	-10
Miyu Yamashita	70-66-67	203	-10
Jin Hee Im	66-71-67	204	-9
Cara Gainer	67-72-66	205	-8
Auston Kim	70-67-68	205	-8
Anna Nordqvist	69-68-68	205	-8
Hinako Shibuno	69-68-68	205	-8
Maja Stark	66-71-69	206	-7
Amy Yang	70-68-68	206	-7
Karis Davidson	70-71-66	207	-6
Perrine Delacour	65-72-70	207	-6
Erika Hara	67-70-70	207	-6
Anna Huang	70-71-66	207	-6
Charley Hull	66-70-71	207	-6
Ariya Jutanugarn	70-68-69	207	-6
MinJi Kang	67-74-66	207	-6
Minami Katsu	70-68-69	207	-6
Lydia Ko	69-69-69	207	-6
Mary Liu	70-69-68	207	-6
Pajaree Anannarukarn	73-67-68	208	-5
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	69-70-69	208	-5
Soo Bin Joo	72-67-69	208	-5
Jennifer Kupcho	69-70-69	208	-5
Shuri Sakuma	70-67-71	208	-5
Shannon Tan	69-72-67	208	-5
Arpichaya Yubol	70-72-66	208	-5
Kajsa Arwefjall	69-70-70	209	-4
Aditi Ashok	70-70-69	209	-4
Ayaka Furue	68-73-68	209	-4
Melanie Green	71-70-68	209	-4
A Lim Kim	71-69-69	209	-4
Somi Lee	68-70-71	209	-4
Cassie Porter	69-72-68	209	-4
Shiho Kuwaki	70-69-71	210	-3
Andrea Lee	70-70-70	210	-3
Nastasia Nadaud	68-68-74	210	-3
Farah O'Keefe	68-74-68	210	-3
Pauline Roussin-Bouchard	74-68-68	210	-3
Patty Tavatanakit	70-69-71	210	-3
Yunseo Yang	72-70-68	210	-3

PGA Tour/DP World Tour-ISCO Championship
At Championship Course; Louisville, Ky.; Purse: $4 million; Yardage: 7,056; Par: 70
Third Round

Lucas Glover,	63-64-68	195	-15
Aaron Wise,	65-65-66	196	-14
Steven Fisk,	63-66-68	197	-13
Stephan Jaeger, Germany	63-69-65	197	-13
Chan Kim,	64-65-68	197	-13
Zac Blair,	69-65-64	198	-12
Tom Hoge,	66-67-65	198	-12
Rafael Campos, Puerto Rico	66-67-66	199	-11
William Mouw,	68-63-68	199	-11
Taylor Pendrith, Canada	70-63-66	199	-11
Ben Silverman, Canada	67-68-64	199	-11

Champions Tour - Kaulig Companies Championship
At Firestone Country Club - South Course; Akron, Ohio; Purse: $3.5 million; Yardage: 7,248; Par: 70
Third Round

Zach Johnson	67-67-63	197	-13
Miguel Angel Jimenez	72-67-62	201	-9
Cameron Percy	67-66-70	203	-7
Darren Clarke	66-70-68	204	-6
Tag Ridings	70-66-68	204	-6
Stewart Cink	69-68-68	205	-5
Jerry Kelly	65-69-71	205	-5
Boo Weekley	68-67-70	205	-5
Y.E. Yang	67-73-65	205	-5

Nets' Johnson showing potential

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — Chaney Johnson might be undersized, underrated and an underdog. But he won't be outworked.

The second-year Net — who hustled his way from undrafted rookie last season to a two-way contract — is making an impression in Summer League with his hustle and athleticism.

"I knew Chaney was a beast. It's further confirmed," assistant coach Dutch Gaitley said. "In the ESPN thing, they asked about all of our rookies: 'Who's the one guy you haven't talked about?' I was like, 'It's Chaney Johnson.' And the reason is Chaney has to play at the center just because we need him to play the center.

"If we needed Chaney to play point guard, Chaney would play point guard. He does whatever is called for the team. He's an outstanding teammate. He plays as hard as anybody on the court. I think he's got a really bright future."

Johnson had 20 points, 10 rebounds and five steals — all game highs — in Brooklyn's 83-76 loss to Atlanta.

He's scored double figures in all four of his appearances — from the California Classic to Las Vegas — and done it all playing out of position, asked to play center.

"That dude is a dog," Egor Demin said. "He's the type that he's the favorite teammate of anybody, because he does all the hard work without feeling like we owe him something. He just does it because that's what he's doing.

"Sometimes I feel bad because we don't reward him enough for his work out there to help us to be successful. He takes it very humbly from a standpoint of, 'Hey, I'm here for you and anybody else.' The level of my appreciation towards him is hard to explain. He's amazing."

Johnson is averaging 15 points on 64.7 percent shooting, 8.8 rebounds and 2.8 steals this summer.

And he's done it being tasked with playing center despite standing just 6-foot-7.

"I hang my hat on going out there and playing hard, just controlling everything I can control," Johnson said.

blewis@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day | **Hammerin Henry (1st)**
Lock Record: 3 for 5 (60%)
Meet Record: 13/61 $67.70

1 5 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

A little late to the party but Irad Ortiz is back. Two-year-olds in the Sunday opener and Irad rides the debuting **HAMMERIN HENRY**, a Cyberknife colt for Cox/Dubb. Edge over **TINIAN** (Casse/J Ortiz/Omaha Beach) and **PAREA** (Maker/Davis/Speakers Corner), who also run first time.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Zack the Grey,123	R Silvera	x-x-x	Rodriguez	12-1
2	Cut Down the Nets,123	J Velazquez	4-x-x	Green	9-2
3	Loan Ranger,123	R Gutierrez	x-x-x	Giddings	20-1
4	D I Wire,123	J Rosario	x-x-x	Breen	5-1
5	Hammerin Henry,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	7-2
6	Never Before,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Englehart	15-1
7	Mendel,123	C Elliott	x-x-x	Giddings	12-1
8	Parea,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Maker	8-1
9	Buffalo Sober,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Antonucci	12-1
10	Tinian,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Casse	3-1

2 1 1/2 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up(f)

Going long on the lawn to back-end the double. **TRICKY KITTY** missed the break, raced wide and ran to her odds (43-1) in a Grade 3 at Delaware. Ran well at this longer distance previously. Carmouche at a price. **KIAMBA** was 3rd in the Sheepshead Bay, then 5th with comparable company. Proven at this longer distance. So is **PRETTY TAPIT**. Stretched to 1 1/2 miles and graduated (11th start) at Churchill. Competitively spotted for Joe Sharp. **MIDNIGHT CONCERTO** rallied to within a neck in the shorter Mount Vernon.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Kiamba(IRE)(L),126	F Prat	5-3-x	Clement	5-2
2	Malibu Smart(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-2-4	Maker	10-1
3	Midnight Concerto(L),126	C Elliott	2-1-3	McPeek	4-1
4	Tricky Kitty(L),126	K Carmouche	6-3-3	Garner	8-1
5	Trail of Gold(L),126	J Velazquez	2-6-5	Donk	8-1
6	Pretty Tapit(L),126	L Saez	1-2-4	Sharp	6-1
7	Trading Strategy(L),126	D Davis	1-2-4	C Brown	6-1
8	Scarlett's Halo(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-3-3	C Brown	4-1
9	Bernieandtherose(L),126	K Davis	6-3-1	Schettino	8-1
10	Soundbite(L),126	Rider TBA	4-4-3	Nevin	6-1
11	Higher Force(L),126	Rider TBA	1-4-7	Rodriguez	5-1

3 7 fur; $43,000; clm($20,000); 3up(f)

Seven furlongs seems to be the distance that **MOONLIGHT GAL** shines brightest. She's 2 for 3 after scoring at Aqueduct. Competitively spotted and may offer fair value. Stretch runner gets a pace to chase. **BELLACOSE** makes 4YO debut for Jeremiah Englehart. 1 for 2 last year. The win at the Spa. The loss on turf. **CARARRA** moves lower for Baker after walking home last of 7. Rosario on; blinkers off.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	That'sthefactjack(L),126	E Zayas	5-1-7	Schettino	12-1
2	Belle Cherie(L),126	F Prat	4-1-6	Maker	3-1
3	Moonlight Gal(L),126	R Santana, Jr	1-2-6	Englehart	8-1
4	Bellacose(L),126	J Rodriguez	7-1-7	Englehart	5-2
5	Vino Frizzante(L),126	M Franco	6-6-2	Rice	4-1
6	Pocket Queens(L),126	D Davis	3-4-9	Kantarmaci	8-1
7	Calling an Audible(L),126	K Davis	2-3-2	Barker	10-1
8	Moonlit Weekend(L),126	R Gutierrez	4-8-4	Pringle	20-1
9	Cararra(L),126	J Rosario	7-4-3	Baker	8-1

4 1 mile(T); $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds try two turns on the turf. **ZODIAC WARRIOR** Troubled start, then raced evenly, 4th of 9. Jackies Warrior colt may relish the longer distance. Carmouche stays on; so do we. **SHOWA** MTO. **SANKE** (Ward/J Ortiz/Not This Time), **AND THE RUNNER IS** (Casse/Irad/Oscar Performance) and **ANTONELLI** (Clement/Franco/Golden Pal) are live first-timers.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Jolley,123	R Gutierrez	5-x-x	Begg	20-1
2	Liam's Law,123	F Prat	4-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
3	Suspend,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	10-1
4	Zodiac Warrior,123	K Carmouche	4-x-x	Ryerson	6-1
5	Berta's Stitch,123	D Davis	3-x-x	Terranova II	7-2
6	Surety,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Weaver	15-1
7	Casino,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Casse	12-1
8	Real Goodbar,123	C Elliott	1-x-x	McPeek	12-1
9	Sanke,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Ward	10-1
10	Antonelli,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Clement	4-1
11	And the Runner Is,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Casse	5-1
12	Showa,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Ward	3-1

5 5 1/2 fur(T); $62,000; mdn clm($55,000); 3up(f)

If **AMERICAN MISS** draws in off the AE we're in. Led, settled for 2nd debuting on dirt at Keeneland. Quick switch to the turf for Rice who tightens her to 5 1/2 panels. J Ortiz if she runs. **LOTS OF KISSES** offered little off the layoff at Churchill. Length short, same distance last year under Gaffalione. Dangerous, 2nd off the shelf for Maker. **SOLIAIA** makes grass debut for Atras. 0 for 3 on dirt but narrowly defeated twice. Carmouche on the Kentucky invader.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Undercover Agent(L),122	D Davis	6-3-4	Casse	8-1
2	Pulling Threads(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-2	Rice	6-1
3	Grace of Monaco(L),122	F Prat	6-5-x	Gargan	12-1
4	Solaia(L),122	K Carmouche	4-2-2	Atras	12-1
5	Tune Timer(L),122	R Silvera	4-4-x	Levine	12-1
6	R P Byrne(IRE)(L),122	J Rodriguez	2-5-8	Ward	5-1
7	Americanexpression(L),122	R Santana, Jr	3-x-x	Antonacci	6-1
8	Immortal Poet(GB)(L),122	M Franco	5-10-x	Falcone	6-1
9	Lots of Kisses(L),126	T Gaffalione	8-4-2	Maker	7-2
10	Ilenas Kaz Way(M),122	D Haddock	x-x-x	Synnefias	20-1
11	Miel Et Citron(L),126	S Bridgmohan	6-10-7	Seyler	50-1
12	Amended Dreamer(L),122	E Zayas	3-5-5	Antonucci	15-1
13	American Miss(L),126	J Ortiz	2-x-x	Rice	8-1
14	Credit Risk(L),122	J Rodriguez	7-11-4	Bartkowski	12-1

6 6 1/2 fur; $125,000; alw; 3up(f)

Chad Brown has 2 in here; both capable. **LIMES DONT LIE** is 2 for 6 and never off the board. Clear 2nd racing similar at Saratoga in June. **ALYESKA** makes 4YO debut. 1 for 3 last year. Ran 2nd, a neck behind top pick. J Ortiz replaces Prat who moves to **STRONG STATE**. Ran home 3 lengths short in her seasonal debut at Churchill. 2 for 4 last year. Ran 2nd in Grade 3 as well. **SHES A GAMER** moves higher for Breen after winning by open lengths at Monmouth.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	She's a Gamer(L),126	J Rosario	1-2-1	Breen	5-1
2	Ultimate Authority(L),126	T Gaffalione	7-5-3	Joseph	10-1
3	Limes Don't Lie(L),126	D Davis	2-3-1	C Brown	7-2
4	Strong State(L),126	F Prat	4-4-2	Stall	4-1
5	Sing a Little Song(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-4	Atras	10-1
6	The Big Calhouna(L),126	M Franco	3-7-4	Rice	6-1
7	Alyeska(L),126	J Ortiz	1-2-3	C Brown	9-5

7 5 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

More debuting 2YOs. Our order of finish **SILVER KNIGHT** (Giddings/Alvarado/Mitole), **FIVE GRAND** (Weaver/Prat/Vekoma), **NINUCCIO** (Hennig/JohnnyV/Army Mule) and **ROAD SHOW** (Casse/J Ortiz/Roadster). **BANKER BULL** has a race under him. 2nd this distance at the Big A.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Banker Bull,123	J Rodriguez	2-x-x	Green	6-1
2	Honest Owen,123	J Rosario	x-x-x	Breen	8-1
3	Saratoga Tea,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Brisset	9-2
4	Sweet Redemption,123	C Elliott	x-x-x	Ryerson	12-1
5	Ninuccio,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Hennig	15-1
6	Five Grand,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Weaver	5-2
7	Silver Knight,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Giddings	8-1
8	Road Show,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Casse	7-2
9	Professor Plum,123	M Franco	x-x-x	De Paz	15-1
10	Midnight Raider,123	R Silvera	x-x-x	Friedman	30-1
11	Roadhouse Warrior,123	S Bridgmohan	x-x-x	Giddings	15-1

8 1 mile(T); $78,000; alw; 3up

HIGH BETA makes his 4YO debut for Chad Brown. Went 1 for 2 last year. The win, this distance at Tampa. Resurfaces as a 1st time gelding; gets Irad back. **GOLDEN SYMPHONY** MTO. A win and a thisclose 2nd last two starts. **HIGHLANDS WAY** moved lower and responded, winning handily at 2nd asking. Competitively spotted for Pletcher. Amelia Green's **THE PADDOCK PASTOR** and Mike Maker's **GENE AND JUDE** ran 2-3 here last month.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mo Kreesa(L),126	J Velazquez	7-2-3	Hennig	15-1
2	Rabaja(L),126	E Zayas	11-9-10	James Bond	20-1
3	Gene and Jude(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-1-7	Maker	8-1
4	Remi's Moon(L),126	M Franco	4-1-4	Sharp	6-1
5	Alexis Zorba(GB)(L),126	K Carmouche	1-10-8	B Brown	20-1
6	Highlands Way(L),126	F Prat	1-11-x	Pletcher	6-1
7	Outtawaterbury(L),126	K Davis	7-3-10	Donk	30-1
8	Hard Circle(L),126	T Gaffalione	4-1-1	Kantarmaci	10-1
9	Freaky(L),126	D Davis	5-4-1	Handal	10-1
10	High Beta(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-1	C Brown	7-2
11	City of Oscars(L),126	J Ortiz	6-2-3	Casse	9-2
12	The Paddock Pastor(L),126	J Rodriguez	2-3-7	Green	8-1
13	Boltage(L),126	T Gaffalione	7-9-5	Jacobson	15-1
14	Blast Furnace(L),126	J Alvarado	9-9-3	Maker	10-1
15	Golden Symphony(L),126	M Franco	2-1-4	Rice	5-2
16	Pineapple Man(L),126	Rider TBA	2-1-4	Nevin	9-2

9 5 1/2 fur(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up

Playing **TWENTY ONE RED** in the weekender. 0 for 11 but a length short last out. Weaver gets Franco to seal the deal. **SPEIGHTFUL STORM** MTO. **MYKONOS** was 2 lengths back of top pick. **DOWN THE FIELD** (Rice/Irad/Solomini) makes career debut.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Until Last Call(L),126	R Silvera	4-5-5	Ryerson	8-1
2	Mykonos(L),122	F Prat	5-2-4	Maker	9-2
3	Pilot Knob(L),122	E Zayas	5-9-4	B Brown	15-1
4	Boom Shocka Boom(L),126	J Rodriguez	4-x-x	Ward	6-1
5	Down the Field(M),122	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Rice	6-1
6	Golden Joker(L),122	R Gutierrez	6-x-x	Clement	8-1
7	Out of the Fog(L),126	R Santana, Jr	7-7-6	Antonucci	15-1
8	Talwyn(M),122	K Davis	x-x-x	Figueroa	30-1
9	Charlie My Boy(L),122	C Elliott	3-3-5	Barrow	30-1
10	Eye On the Ball(L),122	D Davis	3-9-4	Handal	8-1
11	Twenty One Red(L),122	M Franco	3-8-4	Weaver	7-2
12	Thirsted(L),122	K Carmouche	5-3-4	Simone	12-1
13	Speightful Storm(L),126	E Zayas	3-8-3	James Bond	9-5
14	True Adirondacker(L),122	C Elliott	6-8-x	Potts	12-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Another sour start for Candytown (9-2). Pressed the pace while wide and finished a flat fourth. Loss of $30. A lot to like Sunday. Bet $30 to win in Hammerin Henry in Race 1. And $4 across the board on Tricky Kitty in Race 2, Moonlight Gal in Race 3, American Miss in Race 5 and Silver Knight in Race 7. Total bet: $78. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
1 Midnght Stll (Prat) 3.48 2.18 2.10
3 Decimation (Santana,Jr.) 3.18 2.56
2 Motawaali (Velazquez) 3.72
Scr: Magic Chuck
● $1 Exacta (1-3) $3.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-3-2-4) $5.29 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-3-2) $7.45

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

SECOND-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
5 Angel of Krk (Prat) 4.66 3.34 2.44
4 Rum Twist (Velazquez) 10.00 5.16
7 Aerial Affair (Zayas) 3.08
Scr: Bluegrass Princess
● $1 Daily Double (1-5) $4.71 ● $1 Exacta (5-4) $26.25 ● $1 Quinella (4-5) $19.80 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-4-7-8) $69.60 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-4-7) $57.50

THIRD-6 fur; $120,000; alw; 3up (f&m)
1 Nxt On Stg (Frnco) 10.00 3.46 2.50
6 Speightful Lily (Prat) 2.52 2.10
5 Army Gal (Lezcano) 2.30
● $1 Pick 3 (1-5-1) $27.49 ● $1 Daily Double (5-1) $15.20 ● $1 Exacta (1-6) $11.80 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-6-5-3) $9.45 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-6-5) $10.00

FOURTH-1 mile; $125,000; alw; 3up
1 Snds Lk Pln (SntnJr.) 5.60 3.16 2.78
4 Intellect (FR) (Prat) 3.80 2.72
7 Life and Times (Ortiz) 3.56
Scr: Georgia Magic, Castle Chaos, Dreamlike
● $1 Pick 3 (5-1-1) $34.50 ● $1 Daily Double (1-1) $14.70 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $6.69 ● $1 Quinella (1-4) $5.00 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-7-2) $17.44 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-7) $15.29

FIFTH-5½ fur; $250,000; Caress; 4up (f&m)
2 Mvn' On Up (Gffln) 12.62 5.10 2.96
1 Zeitlos (Ortiz) 4.20 2.74
6 In Our Time (Prat) 2.22
Scr: Italian Soiree
● $1 Pick 3 (1-1-2) $94.75 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1/5-1-1/10/11/12-2) $168.00 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1/6-1/5-1-1/10/11/12-2) $392.45 ● $1 Daily Double (1-2) $19.14 ● $1 Exacta (2-1) $23.67 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-1-6-5) $19.85 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-1-6) $22.31

SIXTH-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
9 B Ytfl Crly (SntnJr.) 73.04 29.66 15.00
7 D'muehl (Rodriguez) 7.94 5.46
10 Lady Azul (Haddock) 15.24
Scr: Luck Penny, Miss Judged, Beach Belle, Early and Often
● $1 Pick 3 (1-2-9) $533.86 ● $1 Daily Double (2-9) $234.08 ● $1 Exacta (9-7) $281.81 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-7-10-12) $5398.13 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-7-10) $2287.92

SEVENTH-1 mile; $125,000; alw; 3up
4 Yinzer (Ortiz) 8.48 5.40 4.10
1 Starship Titan (Guterrez) 9.26 6.26
3 Walley World (Gaffalione) 4.04
Scr: Otello, Waitlist, Gewurztraminer, Unlimitedpotential
● $1 Pick 3 (2-9-4) $711.89 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1/10/11/12-2-9-4) $1083.69 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-1/10/11/12-2-9-4) $5532.25 ● $1 Daily Double (9-4) $115.94 ● $1 Exacta (4-1) $26.90 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-3-7) $62.00 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-3) $53.54

EIGHTH-5½ fur; $120,000; alc; 3up
9 No Evidence (Prat) 15.32 7.42 5.42
2 Bosun (Gaffalione) 6.62 4.72
7 Grunge (Rodriguez) 6.08
Scr: Brightline Bullet, Pair of Socks, Agoo
● $1 Pick 3 (9-4-9) $1025.34 ● $1 Daily Double (4-9) $37.36 ● $1 Exacta (9-2) $38.04 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-2-7-5) $255.77 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-2-7) $203.76

NINTH-1 mile; $105,000; alc; 3up
6 Sunday Boy (Ortz) 10.50 5.14 3.82
7 Judge Boushay (Franco) 6.42 3.96
5 King Farro (Davis) 3.94
Scr: Hey Toby
● $1 Pick 3 (4-9-6) $167.65 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2-9-4-9-6) $25004.98 ● $1 Daily Double (9-6) $65.41 ● $1 Exacta (6-7) $42.50 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-7-5-1) $75.30 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-7-5) $62.90

Winner picked by Vic C

TENTH-1 3/8m; $250,000; Bowling Green; 4p
1 Ole Crzy Bon (Prt) 4.80 3.06 2.10
4 Fort Gorg (GB) (Shomrk) 4.00 2.82
6 Minaret Station (Ortiz) 2.26
Scr: Kinetic, Dr. Kraft, Yo Daddy, Carcano
● $1 Grand Slam (1/3/4-2/7/9-5/6/7-1) $47.26
● $1 Pick 3 (9-6-1) $153.82 ● $1 Daily Double (6-1) $25.73 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $6.97 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-6-3) $4.94 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-6) $6.89

ELEVENTH-1 1/16 mile; $100,000; mdn; 3up
9 Mnor Prk (Gfflone) 27.94 9.50 5.78
10 Coach Ryan (Franco) 4.14 2.74
1 Professor Proton (Gutierrez) 7.26
Scr: Sunshine Bobalou
● $1 Pick 6 (9-4-9-6-1/7/8/9/10-9) $5051.60 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-1-9) $329.00 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (9-6-1/7/8/9/10-9) $1690.08 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-9-6-1/7/8/9/10-9) $14591.14 ● $1 Daily Double (1-9) $37.41 ● $1 Exacta (9-10) $62.56 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-10-1-5) $315.58 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-10-1) $396.26 ● $1 Pick 6 (9-4-9-6-1/7/8/9/10-9) $5051.60 ● $1 Daily Double (1-9) $37.41 ● $1 Exacta (9-10) $62.56 ● $0.1 Show (9-10-1-5) $315.58 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-10-1) $396.26

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	13	9	.591	–
Atlanta	13	10	.565	½
Liberty	13	10	.565	½
Washington	10	10	.500	2
Toronto	9	13	.409	4
Chicago	7	15	.318	6
Connecticut	5	18	.217	8½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	17	6	.739	–
Las Vegas	17	6	.739	–
Golden State	17	7	.708	½
Dallas	15	8	.652	2
Los Angeles	10	11	.476	6
Portland	10	13	.435	7
Phoenix	8	16	.333	9½
Seattle	6	18	.250	11½

Saturday
Minnesota 90, **Liberty** 85
Portland 102, Atlanta 92
Las Vegas 106, Phoenix 58

Sunday
Liberty at Toronto, 3pm
Seattle at Washington, 3pm
Chicago at Dallas, 7pm
Indiana at Las Vegas, 9pm

Monday
Los Angeles at Atlanta, 7pm
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9pm

Tuesday
Portland at Connecticut, 11 a.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7pm

Lynx 90, Liberty 85

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Gardner	14:00	0-5	0-0	0-1	2	2	0
Stewart	37:06	7-16	1-1	3-7	3	1	17
Jones	32:58	5-11	3-4	3-12	2	4	15
Astier	23:22	2-5	0-0	0-0	2	3	4
Ionescu	34:44	9-20	4-4	3-8	5	0	25
Johannes	22:36	5-10	0-0	1-3	1	3	14
Xu	18:23	3-4	0-0	0-1	1	0	8
Laney-Hamilton	7:27	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Allen	6:39	0-2	0-0	1-2	2	2	0
Carrera	2:45	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Totals	200:00	32-75	8-9	11-34	20	16	85

Percentages: FG .427, FT .889. **3-point goals:** 13-38, .342 (Johannes 4-9, Ionescu 3-12, Stewart 2-3, Xu 2-3, Jones 2-5, Astier 0-1, Laney-Hamilton 0-1, Allen 0-2, Gardner 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 9. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 2 (Jones, Stewart). **Turnovers:** 14 (Astier 4, Stewart 4, Ionescu 3, Allen, Gardner, Xu). **Steals:** 8 (Astier 2, Ionescu 2, Stewart 2, Gardner, Johannes). **Technicals:** Xu, 8:18 fourth; coach Chris DeMarco, 5:53 fourth.

Minnesota

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Coffey	28:04	1-2	0-0	1-5	5	4	3
McBride	33:01	8-17	4-4	1-4	2	4	25
Howard	35:36	5-9	5-6	5-9	2	3	16
Miles	31:51	6-16	7-10	1-5	4	3	23
Williams	36:10	5-17	0-0	5-12	1	2	12
Juhasz	16:20	0-2	0-0	1-3	1	1	0
Caldwell	7:06	2-3	1-2	0-1	0	0	5
Delaere	6:59	2-3	1-1	1-1	1	0	6
Hamzova	4:06	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	0
Kosu	0:47	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	200:00	29-69	18-23	15-40	18	18	90

Percentages: FG .420, FT .783. **3-point goals:** 14-28, .500 (McBride 5-11, Miles 4-7, Williams 2-3, Howard 1-1, Coffey 1-2, Delaere 1-2, Juhasz 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 6. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Coffey 2, Juhasz). **Turnovers:** 12 (Williams 3, Coffey 2, Hamzova 2, Howard 2, Miles 2, Juhasz). **Steals:** 9 (McBride 4, Howard 2, Caldwell, Delaere, Miles). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty	13	19	30	23—	85
Minnesota	17	25	19	29—	90

A: 12,405 (19,356). **T:** 2:08.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	56	37	.602	—	—	6-4	W-2	35-14	21-23
Yankees	53	42	.558	4	+6½	5-5	W-3	23-20	30-22
Boston	45	48	.484	11	½	8-2	W-8	17-27	28-21
Toronto	45	50	.474	12	1½	5-5	L-1	24-25	21-25
Baltimore	45	51	.469	12½	2	6-4	W-3	27-25	18-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	50	46	.521	—	+3	6-4	W-3	24-22	26-24
Chicago	49	45	.521	—	—	4-6	W-2	30-17	19-28
Minnesota	47	49	.490	3	—	6-4	W-1	25-25	22-24
Detroit	44	51	.463	5½	2½	8-2	L-1	27-22	17-29
Kansas City	38	58	.396	12	9	3-7	L-4	21-26	17-32

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	48	47	.505	—	—	5-5	L-1	23-22	25-25
Seattle	47	49	.490	1½	—	4-6	L-5	27-20	20-29
Houston	47	50	.485	2	½	5-5	W-1	23-24	24-26
Athletics	41	54	.432	7	5½	1-9	L-8	19-28	22-26
Los Angeles	38	58	.396	10½	9	2-8	L-1	21-25	17-33

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 4, Washington 2
Boston 4, **Mets** 0
White Sox 1, Athletics 0
Minnesota 5, L.A. Angels 3
Tampa Bay 6, Seattle 1
Cleveland 4, Miami 1
Philadelphia 4, Detroit 2
Baltimore 6, Kansas City 1
Houston 9, Texas 3
San Diego 8, Toronto 7

Sunday

Yankees at Washington, 1:35
Boston at **Mets**, 1:40
Kansas City at Baltimore, 1:35
Cleveland at Miami, 1:40
Philadelphia at Detroit, 1:40
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 1:40
Athletics at White Sox, 2:10
L.A. Angels at Minnesota, 2:10
Houston at Texas, 2:35
Toronto at San Diego, 4:10

Monday

No games scheduled

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	54	40	.574	—	—	4-6	L-2	27-18	27-22
Philadelphia	53	43	.552	2	+1	5-5	W-1	25-21	28-22
Miami	52	44	.542	3	—	6-4	L-2	31-19	21-25
Washington	48	48	.500	7	4	5-5	L-2	20-30	28-18
Mets	40	56	.417	15	12	4-6	L-2	21-27	19-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	59	36	.621	—	—	6-4	L-2	29-18	30-18
Chicago	53	42	.558	6	+1½	6-4	W-1	27-19	26-23
St. Louis	50	44	.532	8½	1	5-5	W-2	26-25	24-19
Pittsburgh	49	47	.510	10½	3	6-4	W-2	26-24	23-23
Cincinnati	43	51	.457	15½	8	4-6	L-1	22-27	21-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	61	35	.635	—	—	5-5	L-2	31-18	30-17
Arizona	48	47	.505	12½	3½	5-5	W-3	27-20	21-27
San Diego	47	48	.495	13½	4½	4-6	W-1	26-24	21-24
San Francisco	40	55	.421	20½	11½	5-5	W-1	21-25	19-30
Colorado	39	58	.402	22½	13½	5-5	L-1	22-25	17-33

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Yankees 4, Washington 2
Boston 4, **Mets** 0
Pittsburgh 7, Milwaukee 6, 1st gm.
San Francisco 4, Colorado 2
Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 2, 2nd gm.
Cleveland 4, Miami 1
Philadelphia 4, Detroit 2
St. Louis 4, Atlanta 1
Cubs 5, Cincinnati 3
San Diego 8, Toronto 7
Arizona 9, L.A. Dodgers 2

Sunday

Yankees at Washington, 1:35
Boston at **Mets**, 1:40
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 12:15
Cubs at Cincinnati, 1:40
Cleveland at Miami, 1:40
Philadelphia at Detroit, 1:40
Atlanta at St. Louis, 2:15
Colorado at San Francisco, 4:05
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10
Toronto at San Diego, 4:10

Monday

No games scheduled

Yankees 4, Nationals 2

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rosario 3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.240
McMahon 3b	3	1	1	1	1	0	.216
Rice dh	2	0	2	0	2	0	.279
Caballero pr-dh	1	1	0	0	0	0	.249
Grisham cf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.238
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.259
Bellinger lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Domínguez rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Chisholm 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.219
Volpe ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Wells ph-c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.151
Totals	34	4	9	4	4	6	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	5	1	3	1	0	1	.278
García dh	5	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Mead 1b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.245
Abrams ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.276
Lile lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Crews cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.216
Vivas 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.242
Millas c	2	0	0	0	1	1	.185
Tena ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Nuñez 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.242
Totals	33	2	7	2	5	8	

Yankees	000 000 040 —	4	9	0
Washington	200 000 000 —	2	7	0

LOB: New York 7, Washington 9. **2B:** Bellinger (18). **HR:** McMahon (9), off Ribalta; Grisham (10), off Beeter; Goldschmidt (15), off Beeter; Wood (27), off Schlittler; Mead (16), off Schlittler. **RBIs:** McMahon (26), Grisham 2 (40), Goldschmidt (42), Wood (63), Mead (43). **SB:** McMahon (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Chisholm, Bellinger 2, Caballero); Washington 6 (Mead, Abrams 2, Nuñez 2, García). **RISP:** New York 0 for 8; Washington 0 for 5. **Runners moved up:** Goldschmidt, Wood, Crews. **DP:** New York 1 (Goldschmidt, Volpe, Goldschmidt); Washington 1 (Vivas, Nuñez, Mead).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schlittler	6.2	4	2	2	4	6	99	2.05
Headrick, W, 5-1	0.1	2	0	0	1	1	25	1.55
Cruz, H, 16	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.25
Bednar, S, 18-20	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.70

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Poulin	1.2	1	0	0	1	3	31	2.70
Mikolas	4.0	4	0	0	1	0	59	5.53
Cosgrove, H, 2	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	18	0.00
Ribalta, H, 8	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	17	3.90
Beeter, L, 3-2, BS, 7-12	0.0	3	2	2	0	0	10	3.62
Krook	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	21	12.79

T: 2:56. **A:** 34,054 (41,376).

Twins 5, Angels 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	5	2	2	0	0	0	.237
Trout cf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.233
Schanuel 1b	4	0	2	1	1	0	.272
Peraza pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Soler dh	3	0	1	2	2	1	.217
Grissom 2b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.249
Adell rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.247
Meckler lf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.307
Guzman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.252
O'Hoppe c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Totals	37	3	10	3	4	9	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.285
Martin ph-lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Lee 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.251
Bell dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Clemens 2b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.246
Lewis 1b	4	2	2	2	0	1	.221
Caratini c	2	2	1	1	1	0	.240
Roden rf	2	0	1	1	1	0	.273
Gray ss	2	0	1	0	0	0	.235
Kreidler ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Keaschall cf	2	0	1	1	0	0	.254
Totals	27	5	9	5	4	4	

Los Angeles	002 000 100 —	3	10	0
Minnesota	030 000 20x —	5	9	0

LOB: Los Angeles 11, Minnesota 3. **2B:** Schanuel (17), Trout (13), Soler (13), Meckler (8), Bell (21), Lewis (11), Caratini (8). **HR:** Lewis (10), off Johnson. **RBIs:** Soler 2 (42), Schanuel (35), Lewis 2 (29), Keaschall (28), Caratini (35), Roden (3). **SB:** Meckler (3), Neto (12). **CS:** Keaschall (4). **SF:** Keaschall. **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 14; Minnesota 3 for 4. **DP:** Los Angeles 3 (Grissom, Neto, Schanuel; Grissom, Neto, Schanuel; Neto, Grissom, Schanuel).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Johnson	5.0	3	3	3	3	1	75	6.75
Farris, L, 0-1	2.0	6	2	2	0	2	39	3.79
Fermin	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	17	3.21

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ryan	6.0	6	2	2	2	6	94	2.85
Nance, W, 2-2	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	27	3.97
Go, H, 1	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	21	4.50
Gómez, S, 11-11	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	18	3.50

T: 2:37. **A:** 21,286 (38,544).

Red Sox 4, Mets 0

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Rafaela cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.282
Abreu rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.264
Durbin 3b	3	2	2	0	1	1	.230
Yoshida dh	3	1	1	2	1	0	.266
Monasterio 1b-ss	3	1	2	2	0	0	.226
Duran lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Narváez c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.188
Cheng ss	1	0	0	0	1	1	.296
Gonzalez ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	32	4	6	4	5	9	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf-2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Soto lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.294
Lindor ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.208
Benge rf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.266
Polanco dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.181
Wagaman 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.194
Alvarez c	3	0	2	0	1	1	.254
Baty 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.224
Short 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.149
Bichette ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.256
Taylor pr-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Totals	29	0	3	0	7	8	

Boston	000 200 020 —	4	6	0
Mets	000 000 000 —	0	3	0

LOB: Boston 7, New York 9. **2B:** Rafaela (22). **3B:** Monasterio (1). **HR:** Monasterio (5), off Peralta; Yoshida (3), off Myers. **RBIs:** Monasterio 2 (15), Yoshida 2 (16). **SB:** Benge (15). **S:** Monasterio. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 5 (Gonzalez, Yoshida 2, Cheng 2); New York 4 (Ewing 3, Alvarez). **RISP:** Boston 1 for 8; New York 0 for 8. **Runners moved up:** Yoshida, Benge. **DP:** Boston 1 (Durbin, Seigler, Gonzalez).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rivera	3.2	1	0	0	2	3	64	0.00
Weissert	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	12	3.82
Morán, W, 2-2	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	25	2.82
Slaten, H, 12	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	17	5.64
Coulombe	2.0	0	0	0	3	0	37	4.50

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peralta, L, 5-8	4.1	3	2	2	5	6	92	4.66
Brazobán	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.76
Minter	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	12	1.42
Raley	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.10
Myers	2.0	2	2	2	0	0	23	6.26

T: 2:57. **A:** 38,371 (42,136).

White Sox 1, Athletics 0

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wilson ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.282
Soderstrom dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.241
Langeliers c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.257
Heim 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Kuroda-Grauer 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.439
Butler rf	1	0	0	0	3	0	.199
Cortes lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.277
Thomas ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.208
McNeil 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Williams ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Bolte cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.266
Totals	31	0	4	0	4	6	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grichuk lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Murakami dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.236
Vargas 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
C.Montgomery 3b	3	1	0	0	1	3	.220
Meidroth 2b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.272
B.Montgomery rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Acuña ss	3	0	2	0	0	1	.242
Perez cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.156
Peters ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.302
Romo c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.133
Totals	28	1	5	1	2	11	

Athletics	000 000 000 —	0	4	0
Chicago	000 001 00x —	1	5	1

E: B.Montgomery (2). **LOB:** Athletics 8, Chicago 6. **2B:** Kuroda-Grauer (4), Grichuk (10), Acuña (3), Meidroth (17). **3B:** Wilson (1). **RBIs:** Meidroth (31). **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 5 (McNeil 2, Bolte, Heim 2); Chicago 3 (Perez, Grichuk, Acuña). **RISP:** Athletics 0 for 10; Chicago 0 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Cortes. **GIDP:** Vargas. **DP:** 1 (Kuroda-Grauer, McNeil, Heim).

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jump, L, 3-4	5.2	5	1	1	2	7	86	3.51
Medina	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.59
Harris	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.43

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hudson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.20
Murphy	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	21	4.57
Fedde, W, 5-6	4.0	2	0	0	1	3	55	4.15
Newcomb, H, 7	1.1	1	0	0	1	1	25	2.52
Taylor, S, 4-7	1.2	0	0	0	1	2	22	2.79

T: 2:16. **A:** 22,742 (40,241).

Pirates 7, Brewers 6, 1st Gm.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	5	0	1	0	0	2	.242
Mitchell cf	3	1	1	0	1	2	.275
Chourio ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Turang 2b	3	0	0	0	2	0	.266
Contreras c	5	1	3	1	0	1	.286
Bauers 1b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.269
Vaughn ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.317
Lara lf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.273
Pratt ss	4	1	2	1	0	1	.271
Frelick rf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.240
Ortiz 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Totals	36	6	10	6	5	8	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf-lf	3	2	1	0	0	0	.311
Lowe 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Reynolds dh	3	1	0	0	0	2	.278
Valdez rf	4	2	3	6	0	1	.314
O'Hearn 1b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.286
Gonzales 3b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.310
Callihan lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Cook cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.161
Triolo ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Davis c	2	1	1	0	2	0	.157
Totals	30	7	7	6	3	9	

Milwaukee	020 030 100 —	6	10	1
Pittsburgh	201 000 40x —	7	7	0

E: Ortiz (8). **LOB:** Milwaukee 8, Pittsburgh 5. **2B:** Contreras (13), Lara (1), Pratt (3), Mitchell (19). **HR:** Bauers (18), off Ashcraft; Frelick (4), off Ashcraft; Valdez (8), off Sproat; Valdez (9), off Ashby. **RBIs:** Bauers 2 (59), Pratt (7), Frelick 2 (34), Contreras (53), Valdez 6 (24). **CS:** Mangum (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 3 (Contreras, Lara, Ortiz); Pittsburgh 3 (Gonzales, Callihan 2). **RISP:** Milwaukee 5 for 11; Pittsburgh 3 for 8. **DP:** Milwaukee 1 (Turang, Pratt, Bauers); Pittsburgh 1 (Gonzales, Davis, Gonzales).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sproat	3.0	2	3	2	2	3	83	5.16
Yoho	2.0	0	0	0	1	3	25	3.00
Patrick, H, 4	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	18	3.56
Ashby, L, 12-2, BS, 0-5	1.0	3	3	3	0	3	24	3.56
Wilson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5.91

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ashcraft	5.0	5	5	5	2	6	98	3.49
Mlodzinski, W, 6-3	3.0	3	1	1	2	2	57	3.24
Soto, S, 12-16	1.0	2	0	0	1	0	20	4.05

T: 2:49. **A:** 22,484 (38,753).

Padres 8, Blue Jays 7

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Clement 2b-ss	4	0	1	0	1	0	.297
Lukes rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.287
Straw pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Guerrero 1b	4	1	2	3	1	2	.265
Springer dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Okamoto 3b	4	1	0	0	1	2	.235
Varsho cf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.240
Kirk c	4	1	2	1	0	0	.202
Giménez ss	3	0	0	1	0	0	.232
Urías ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.292
Clase lf	2	2	1	2	2	1	.308
Totals	34	7	8	7	6	7	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	3	1	0	0	2	1	.280
Merrill cf	3	2	2	0	2	0	.222
Bogaerts ss	2	0	0	0	3	1	.224
Machado dh	5	0	1	2	0	1	.196
Sheets lf	2	1	0	1	3	1	.224
Bowen pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.119
France 1b	3	2	2	2	0	0	.265
Cronenworth 2b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.187
Campusano c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.300
Song 3b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.217
Totals	29	8	8	8	11	7	

Toronto	040 003 000 —	7	8	0
San Diego	222 101 00x —	8	8	1

E: Campusano (2). **LOB:** Toronto 7, San Diego 10. **2B:** Kirk (4). **HR:** Clase (2), off Buehler; Guerrero (6), off Rodriguez; France (11), off Fluharty. **RBIs:** Kirk (9), Giménez (38), Clase 2 (5), Guerrero 3 (41), Sheets (40), France 2 (32), Machado 2 (54), Song 2 (12), Cronenworth (11). **SB:** Guerrero (7), Cronenworth 2 (3), Song (11), Straw (3). **CS:** Machado (2), Merrill (2). **SF:** France. **RISP:** Toronto 3 for 10; San Diego 3 for 9. **Runners moved up:** Giménez, Tatis. **DP:** San Diego 1 (Bogaerts, Cronenworth, France).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yesavage	1.2	1	4	4	7	1	59	3.72
Macko	1.1	2	2	2	1	2	37	4.34
Fisher	1.0	2	1	1	1	2	27	3.45
Fluharty, L, 4-1	2.0	2	1	1	0	1	28	4.54
Miles	2.0	1	0	0	2	1	39	2.85

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Buehler	2.0	3	4	4	4	1	65	5.36
Waldron	3.0	2	0	0	1	3	46	7.52
Matsui, H, 4	0.2	0	2	2	1	0	20	2.73
Rodriguz, W, 2-2	1.1	1	1	1	0	0	15	2.23
Morejn, H, 15	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.38
Miller, S, 24-24	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	0.93

T: 3:08. **A:** 40,561 (40,222).

Pirates 3, Brewers 2, 2nd Gm.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	3	0	1	0	1	2	.243
Chourio lf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.281
Turang 2b	5	0	1	2	0	1	.266
Bauers 1b	2	0	0	0	2	2	.267
Contreras ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	2	0	.217
Mitchell cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.274
Lara rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.286
Pratt ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Ortiz 3b	3	1	2	0	0	0	.225
Vaughn ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.315
Totals	33	2	7	2	6	9	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gonzales 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.306
Lowe 2b	4	1	2	0	0	2	.246
Reynolds lf-rf	3	1	2	1	1	0	.282
Valdez rf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.311
Mangum lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.311
O'Hearn 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Ozuna dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.201
Flores c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.400
Davis c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.157
Triolo ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Cook cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.176
Totals	30	3	7	3	1	6	

Milwaukee	000 020 000 —	2	7	0
Pittsburgh	000 201 00x —	3	7	0

LOB: Milwaukee 11, Pittsburgh 5. **2B:** Turang (23), Ortiz (8), Reynolds (22), Lowe (21). **HR:** Valdez (10), off Drohan. **RBIs:** Turang 2 (58), Valdez 2 (26), Reynolds (58). **SB:** Chourio 2 (8), Bauers (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 7 (Mitchell 2, Chourio, Lara, Ortiz, Sánchez 2); Pittsburgh 2 (Ozuna, O'Hearn). **RISP:** Milwaukee 1 for 8; Pittsburgh 2 for 5. **Runners moved up:** Pratt, Mitchell, Valdez. **DP:** Milwaukee 1 (Turang, Pratt, Bauers); Pittsburgh 1 (Triolo, Lowe, O'Hearn).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drohan, L, 4-3	6.1	5	3	3	0	6	83	3.09
Anderson	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	7	3.27
Uribe	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	13	2.56

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Chandler	4.2	5	2	2	3	6	97	4.77
Eisert	0.1	0	0	0	2	0	14	5.86
Ramírez, W, 6-2	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	18	3.31
Santana, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	19	5.80
Mattson, H, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	24	4.50
Montgomery, S, 1-3	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	27	4.14

T: 2:46. **A:** 29,080 (38,753).

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.259
Perdomo ss	3	2	0	0	1	0	.244
Carroll rf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.255
Moreno dh	3	2	2	0	2	1	.300
Kepler lf	3	0	1	2	0	1	.200
Tawa 1b	5	1	3	2	0	1	.213
Arenado 3b	3	2	1	1	1	0	.243
Vargas ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.255
McCann c	4	2	2	4	0	1	.227
Troy cf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.223
Barrosa cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.186
Totals	34	9	9	9	6	8	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.290
Call ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Pages cf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.271
Freeman 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.293
Freeland ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Betts ss	3	0	1	1	0	0	.239
Alfonzo c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Muncy 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Hernández lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Rushing c-1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Edman 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.349
Rojas 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.290
Totals	33	2	6	2	0	6	

Arizona	000 105 120 —	9	9	0
Los Angeles	000 002 000 —	2	6	1

E: Muncy (7). **LOB:** Arizona 7, Los Angeles 4. **2B:** Tawa 2 (5), Edman (4). **HR:** McCann (1), off Yamamoto; Arenado (12), off Knack; McCann (2), off Knack. **RBIs:** Tawa 2 (14), Kepler 2 (8), McCann 4 (10), Arenado (39), Pages (66), Betts (31). **SB:** Perdomo (15). **CS:** Tawa (3). **SF:** Kepler 2. **RISP:** Arizona 1 for 7; Los Angeles 2 for 8.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pfaadt, W, 3-1	5.1	6	2	2	0	2	77	4.70
Garcia, H, 10	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.90
Ginkel	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.89
Morillo	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.97
Abner	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8.59

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, L, 9-6	6.0	5	6	6	4	6	103	2.85
Knack	3.0	4	3	3	2	2	60	9.00

T: 2:44. **A:** 48,102 (56,000).

Rays 6, Mariners 1

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Arozarena lf	2	0	1	0	2	0	.288
Canzone dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.264
Raleigh c	2	0	1	0	2	1	.168
Naylor 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.251
Raley rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Garver ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.190
Wilson rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.208
Young 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.253
Robles cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.223
Mastrobuoni ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Emerson ss	3	0	0	1	0	1	.201
Totals	**30**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**10**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	5	1	1	0	0	0	.320
Aranda 1b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.297
Caminero 3b	2	1	1	0	2	1	.281
Mullins cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.203
Vilade ph	1	1	1	3	0	0	.261
Mesa rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.221
DeLuca rf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.255
Simpson lf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.282
Williamson ss	4	1	4	1	0	0	.253
Palacios 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Fortes c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.257
Totals	**35**	**6**	**12**	**5**	**2**	**5**	

Seattle	**010 000 000 —**	**1**	**6**	**1**
Tampa Bay	**011 000 31x —**	**6**	**12**	**0**

E: Rucker (1). **LOB:** Seattle 8, Tampa Bay 7. **2B:** Young (14), Robles (3), Naylor (12), Caminero (14), Williamson (9), Díaz (17), Aranda 2 (17). **HR:** Vilade (7), off Speier. **RBIs:** Emerson (20), Williamson (23), Aranda (62), Vilade 3 (31). **SB:** Caminero (2), Williamson (8). **CS:** Williamson (1). **SF:** Emerson. **S:** Robles. **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 5 (Crawford, Raley 2, Garver 2); Tampa Bay 6 (Simpson 2, Fortes, Díaz 2, Mullins). **RISP:** Seattle 0 for 6; Tampa Bay 3 for 13. **DP:** Seattle 1 (Emerson, Naylor); Tampa Bay 1 (Aranda, Williamson, Aranda).

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gilbert, L, 7-6	6.2	9	4	4	2	5	96	3.32
Speier	0.1	1	1	1	0	0	5	2.31
Rucker	1.0	2	1	0	0	0	13	6.17

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jax, W, 5-6	5.0	4	1	1	3	3	69	3.47
Booser, H, 4	2.0	1	0	0	0	5	30	1.59
Cleavinger	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	24	3.58
Legumina	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	16	3.89

T: 2:31. **A:** 22,597 (25,025).

Cardinals 4, Braves 1

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.300
Albies 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.267
Olson 1b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.268
Baldwin dh	3	0	1	0	1	0	.254
Dubón lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.269
Riley 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.209
White rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.221
Smith ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Bart c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.216
Mateo ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Jarvis ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Totals	**32**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**11**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Herrera c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.251
Burleson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Walker rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.294
Nootbaar lf	2	2	1	3	1	0	.265
Winn ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Torres dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Jordan 3b	3	0	1	1	0	2	.237
Church cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Totals	**29**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**6**	

Atlanta	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**
St. Louis	**300 100 00x —**	**4**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Atlanta 7, St. Louis 2. **2B:** White (5). **3B:** Torres (2). **HR:** Dubón (10), off Gastelum; Nootbaar (3), off López. **RBIs:** Dubón (51), Nootbaar 3 (12), Jordan (14). **SB:** Nootbaar (1). **RISP:** Atlanta 0 for 6; St. Louis 2 for 6. **DP:** St. Louis 1 (Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
López, L, 4-2	5.0	5	4	4	1	3	85	3.50
Murphy	3.0	0	0	0	0	3	47	2.25

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Liberatore, W, 5-6	6.0	4	0	0	1	6	71	5.00
Gastelum	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	19	6.75
Soriano, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	3.32
O'Brien, S, 24-28	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	18	3.43

T: 2:19. **A:** 29,122 (44,494).

Orioles 6, Royals 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.240
Witt ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.285
Caglianone rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.260
Thomas cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Pasquantino 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Perez dh	2	0	0	1	0	2	.209
Massey 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.265
Loftin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Collins lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.240
Totals	**29**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**9**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.219
Rutschman c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Ward lf	3	2	1	1	1	1	.256
Alonso 1b	4	2	2	2	0	2	.253
Basallo dh	3	0	1	1	0	1	.249
O'Neill rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.191
Mayo 3b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.193
Holliday 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.212
Taveras cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Totals	**29**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**2**	**10**	

Kansas City	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Baltimore	**010 211 01x —**	**6**	**6**	**1**

E: Holliday (3). **LOB:** Kansas City 4, Baltimore 1. **2B:** Alonso (17). **HR:** Alonso (21), off Cameron; Mayo (12), off Cameron; Ward (6), off Cameron; Henderson (17), off Morgan. **RBIs:** Perez (37), Basallo (45), Alonso 2 (64), Mayo (34), Ward (25), Henderson (42). **SF:** Perez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 2 (Loftin, Witt); Baltimore 0. **RISP:** Kansas City 0 for 2; Baltimore 1 for 1. **Runners moved up:** Thomas.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cameron, L, 5-7	7.0	5	5	5	2	9	100	4.89
Morgan	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	14	5.40

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradish, W, 6-9	6.2	2	1	1	2	5	96	3.61
Wolfram, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	4.88
Cano	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	2.37

T: 2:10. **A:** 28,958 (45,971).

Astros 9, Rangers 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.293
Alvarez lf	3	2	2	2	2	0	.315
Matthews cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.197
Paredes 3b	4	2	2	0	1	1	.254
Walker 1b	5	1	1	0	0	4	.239
Altuve 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.235
Smith rf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.218
Wade rf	4	1	1	4	0	2	.250
Allen 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Diaz dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Trammell cf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Vázquez c	3	1	1	1	1	0	.222
Totals	**36**	**9**	**10**	**8**	**4**	**9**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.234
Langford lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.277
Osuna lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Jung 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.294
Nimmo rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.258
Cauley ph	1	1	1	0	0	0	.250
Burger 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Foscue ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Duran ss	4	2	2	3	0	2	.272
Carter cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.186
Lopez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.310
Díaz c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.270
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**12**	

Houston	**204 100 002 —**	**9**	**10**	**0**
Texas	**000 100 002 —**	**3**	**7**	**1**

E: Lopez (2). **LOB:** Houston 6, Texas 6. **2B:** Paredes (18), Alvarez (17), Diaz (9), Walker (19). **HR:** Alvarez (31), off Rocker; Wade (2), off Rocker; Vázquez (5), off Rocker; Duran (9), off Lambert; Duran (10), off Blubaugh. **RBIs:** Alvarez 2 (70), Wade 4 (8), Vázquez (22), Smith (33), Duran 3 (50). **SF:** Smith. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 3 (Wade, Trammell, Paredes); Texas 2 (Jung 2). **RISP:** Houston 3 for 9; Texas 0 for 3. **DP:** Houston 1 (Walker, Peña, Walker).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lambert, W, 8-5	6.0	3	1	1	1	7	107	3.14
De Los Santos	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	4.43
Blubaugh	2.0	3	2	2	1	4	43	3.75

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rocker, L, 2-8	5.2	8	7	7	2	6	91	4.40
Collyer	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	25	3.68
Ahlstrom	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	5.93
Martin	1.0	2	2	2	0	1	25	9.00

T: 2:56. **A:** 37,318 (40,000).

Cubs 5, Reds 3

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	0	0	0	2	2	.290
Suzuki rf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.269
Bregman 3b	4	1	1	2	1	0	.236
Kelly dh	4	1	2	1	0	1	.278
Busch 1b	4	1	3	0	0	0	.236
Hoerner 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Happ lf	3	0	1	1	1	0	.222
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.210
Amaya c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.229
Totals	**34**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**7**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	2	0	1	1	.275
Stewart 3b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.256
Bleday lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.241
Steer rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.244
Lowe 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.247
Suárez dh	3	1	2	1	1	1	.208
Trevino c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Stephenson ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Arroyo 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Friedl cf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.181
Marte ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.194
Totals	**35**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**3**	**8**	

Chicago	**000 012 200 —**	**5**	**9**	**0**
Cincinnati	**000 201 000 —**	**3**	**11**	**0**

LOB: Chicago 7, Cincinnati 8. **2B:** Busch (15), Happ (17). **HR:** Kelly (6), off Lodolo; Bregman (8), off Garcia; Lowe (10), off Assad; Suárez (10), off Assad; Bleday (16), off Pomeranz. **RBIs:** Suzuki (48), Kelly (32), Happ (42), Bregman 2 (37), Lowe (26), Suárez (33), Bleday (42). **SB:** Busch (2), De La Cruz (14). **CS:** Busch (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 5 (Hoerner, Bregman, Suzuki, Amaya, Happ); Cincinnati 3 (Bleday, Stewart 2). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 9; Cincinnati 0 for 8.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Assad	5.0	7	2	2	0	4	82	4.11
Pomeranz, W, 2-3	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	15	5.53
Thielbar, H, 7	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	4.28
Webb, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	23	3.10
Rolison, H, 3	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	15	2.80
Thornton, S, 3-3	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.48

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lodolo	5.0	5	2	2	3	4	78	4.60
C.Ferguson	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	15	2.41
Garcia, L, 0-2	1.0	1	2	2	1	2	19	3.48
Burke	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3.02
P.Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	18	4.00
Antone	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.25

T: 2:58. **A:** 34,199 (43,891).

Phillies 4, Tigers 2

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	2	0	0	1	1	1	.236
Schwarber dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.252
Harper 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.261
Marsh lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.304
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.216
Stott 2b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.246
Realmuto c	4	1	1	2	0	1	.200
Rincones rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.179
Hill cf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.266
Totals	**32**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vierling cf	3	1	3	0	1	0	.209
McGonigle 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.285
Dingler dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Torkelson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.210
Greene lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.288
Valencia c	4	1	2	1	0	0	.556
Lee 2b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.255
Keith ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Malgeri rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Carpenter ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.224
McKinstry ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.195
Totals	**33**	**2**	**10**	**1**	**2**	**7**	

Philadelphia	**001 300 000 —**	**4**	**7**	**0**
Detroit	**000 010 010 —**	**2**	**10**	**1**

a-grounded out for Lee in the 9th. b-popped out for Malgeri in the 9th. **E:** McGonigle (8). **LOB:** Philadelphia 4, Detroit 7. **2B:** Harper (17), Realmuto (10). **HR:** Valencia (2), off Sánchez. **RBIs:** Turner (33), Realmuto 2 (30), Hill (16), Valencia (3). **SB:** Hill 3 (10), Stott (17). **CS:** Harper (4). **SF:** Turner. **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 4 (Turner, Bohm 2, Rincones); Detroit 3 (McGonigle 2, Valencia). **RISP:** Philadelphia 2 for 8; Detroit 0 for 6. .

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sánchez, W, 11-4	7.0	10	2	2	1	7	103	2.62
Bowlan, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	9	3.03
Duran, S, 24-25	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.38

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mize, L, 4-6	5.2	5	4	3	2	5	97	2.79
Anderson	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	19	4.18
Holton	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	9	3.21
Jansen	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	4.56

T: 2:26. **A:** 33,705 (41,083).

Guardians 4, Marlins 1

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.241
Rocchio ss	5	0	2	0	0	0	.274
DeLauter dh	3	0	0	0	2	1	.279
Manzardo 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.214
Watson rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.208
Arias 3b	4	1	3	0	0	1	.239
Halpin cf	4	1	1	0	0	3	.172
Bailey c	4	0	1	2	0	2	.183
Kwan lf	4	0	1	2	0	0	.221
Totals	**36**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**2**	**11**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks dh	3	0	2	1	1	0	.289
Lopez ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.339
Stowers 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.241
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.301
Hernández lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.236
Conine rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Marsee cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.198
Mack c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.240
Sanoja 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.268
Totals	**32**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**4**	**4**	

Cleveland	**000 200 020 —**	**4**	**11**	**0**
Miami	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**7**	**1**

E: Lopez (13). **LOB:** Cleveland 8, Miami 8. **2B:** Kwan (10), Watson (4), Bailey (5), Mack (6), Hernández (8). **RBIs:** Kwan 2 (16), Bailey 2 (15), Hicks (58). **SB:** Arias 2 (3), Halpin (3), Hicks (2), Kwan (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 4 (Bazzana, Kwan 2, DeLauter); Miami 3 (Conine, Hernández, Stowers). **RISP:** Cleveland 2 for 12; Miami 2 for 7. **Runners moved up:** Sanoja. **GIDP:** Bailey, Watson, DeLauter, Mack. **DP:** Cleveland 1 (Bazzana, Rocchio, Manzardo); Miami 3 (Edwards, Lopez, Stowers; Sanoja, Lopez, Stowers; Lopez, Edwards, Stowers).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bibee, W, 3-9	6.2	5	1	1	4	3	94	3.90
Armstrong, H, 6	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	5	4.71
Aleman, H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	1.29
Holderman, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.78

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez, L, 5-7	6.0	8	2	2	2	6	99	3.78
Gibson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	5.73
Kempner	2.0	3	2	2	0	3	42	2.92

T: 2:50. **A:** 16,070 (37,446).

Giants 4, Rockies 2

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.301
Moniak lf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.283
Goodman dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Rumfield 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.298
Karros 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.266
Johnston rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.304
Julien 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Tovar ss	2	0	0	0	1	0	.202
Carrigg ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.281
Sullivan c	3	1	1	0	0	0	.221
Castro ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**6**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ramos lf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.271
Arraez 2b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.332
Schmitt 3b	4	1	1	3	0	1	.280
Devers 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.251
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.224
Eldridge dh	3	1	1	0	0	2	.270
Lee rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.306
Rodriguez c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.238
Gilbert cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.237
Totals	**31**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**1**	**9**	

Colorado	**001 000 010 —**	**2**	**6**	**1**
San Francisco	**000 013 00x —**	**4**	**7**	**0**

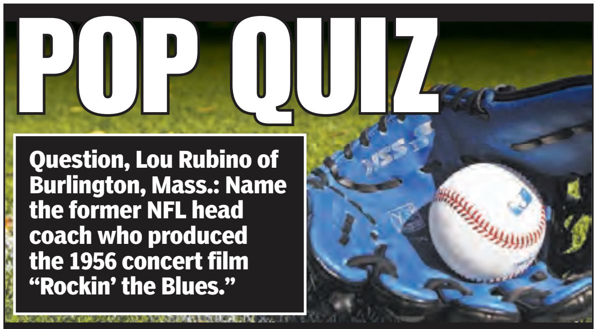
E: Karros (9). **LOB:** Colorado 7, San Francisco 4. **2B:** Goodman (15), Sullivan (8), Eldridge (13), Rodriguez (1). **HR:** Karros (9), off Brubaker; Schmitt (19), off Freeland. **RBIs:** Karros (34), Rodriguez (8), Schmitt 3 (50). **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 2 (Karros, Goodman); San Francisco 1 (Gilbert). **RISP:** Colorado 0 for 3; San Francisco 2 for 4. **DP:** Colorado 1 (Tovar, Julien, Rumfield).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Freeland, L, 2-8	6.0	6	4	4	0	9	92	7.36
Agnos	2.0	1	0	0	1	0	25	6.48

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mahle, W, 2-8	7.0	5	1	1	3	4	104	5.31
Brubaker, S, 1-1	2.0	1	1	1	0	2	25	2.87

T: 2:16. **A:** 35,190 (41,915).

POP QUIZ



Question, Lou Rubino of Burlington, Mass.: Name the former NFL head coach who produced the 1956 concert film "Rockin' the Blues."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: KERRI WALSH JENNINGS APPEARED ON AN EPISODE OF "HELL'S KITCHEN."

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

Phil Mushnick is off this weekend. His Equal Time column will return Friday.

FIFA World Cup

QUARTERFINAL
Thursday, July 9
France 2, Morocco 0
Friday, July 10
Spain 2, Belgium 1
Saturday
England 2, Norway 1, AET
Argentina 3, Switzerland 1
SEMIFINAL
Tuesday
France vs. Spain, 3pm
Wednesday
England vs. Argentina, 3pm

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	1	3	33	31	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	2	14	22	31
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Toronto FC	3	6	5	14	22	29
Atlanta	3	9	2	11	14	23
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Los Angeles FC	7	5	3	24	24	17
Seattle FC	7	3	3	24	17	11
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	5	5	20	22	22
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
St Louis City	4	6	4	16	16	20
Portland	4	8	2	14	22	28
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	9	2	11	14	36

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Thursday
Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Chicago, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Friday
Atlanta at Nashville, 8:10pm
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy, 10:25pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	9	5	1	28	21	15
Washington	8	2	3	27	22	10
Portland	8	3	3	27	24	14
Gotham FC	**7**	**3**	**3**	**24**	**15**	**8**
Utah Royals FC	7	4	3	24	21	16
Kansas City	8	6	0	24	21	20
North Carolina	6	4	3	21	20	16
Orlando	6	6	2	20	21	19
Angel City	6	6	1	19	20	14
Denver Summit FC	4	5	3	15	17	16
Bay FC	4	6	3	15	13	19
Seattle	4	6	2	14	11	16
Houston	4	7	2	14	15	21
Boston Legacy FC	3	7	4	13	15	21
Chicago	4	10	0	12	8	28
Louisville	2	10	1	7	15	26

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Saturday
Washington 2, North Carolina 0
Angel City 2, San Diego 0
Sunday
Portland at Seattle, 4pm
Houston at Denver Summit FC, 7pm
Wednesday
Boston Legacy FC at Orlando, 7pm
Washington at **Gotham FC**, 8pm
Friday
San Diego at Kansas City, 8pm
Saturday, July 18
Seattle at **Gotham FC**, 12pm
Portland at Denver Summit FC, 2pm
North Carolina at Bay FC, 4pm
Angel City at Chicago, 6:30pm
Houston at Louisville, 8pm
Orlando at Utah Royals FC, 8:45pm
Sunday, July 19
Washington at Boston Legacy FC, 7pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Saturday
San Antonio 70, **Knicks** 49
Atlanta 83, **Nets** 76
Orlando 93, Miami 88
New Orleans 95, Charlotte 91
Philadelphia 100, Indiana 93
Denver 101, Minnesota 82
Toronto 102, Houston 89
L.A. Lakers 91, Dallas 70
Sunday
Phoenix vs. New Orleans, 3pm
Cleveland vs. Detroit, 4pm
Charlotte vs. Boston, 5pm
Oklahoma City vs. Golden State, 6pm
Orlando vs. Portland, 7pm
Sacramento vs. Washington, 8pm
San Antonio vs. Milwaukee, 9pm
L.A. Clippers vs. Utah, 10pm

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: $30,327,600; Surface: Grass; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):

Women's Singles - Championship

Linda Noskova (9), Czechia, def. Karolina Muchova (10), Czechia, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

The POST Line

MLB
Sunday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	-104-112	NATIONALS
METS	OFF	Red Sox
ORIOLES	$117-142	Royals
RAYS	$115-140	Mariners
Athletics	-109-114	WHITE SOX
TWINS	$118-141	Angels
RANGERS	OFF	Astros
Brewers	$109-132	PIRATES
Cubs	$108-131	REDS
CARDINALS	$112-136	Braves
GIANTS	$133-162	Rockies
DODGERS	$167-206	Diamondbacks
MARLINS	-102-116	Guardians
Phillies	-109-112	TIGERS
Blue Jays	-109-112	PADRES

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
MYSTICS	3.5 (160.5)	Storm
WINGS	9.5 (176.5)	Sky

FIFA World Cup
Tuesday- Semifinals

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
France	$115-145	Spain
game held in Arlington, Tx.		
Wednesday		
Argentina	-105-120	England
game held in Atlanta		

NBA Summer League
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Suns	4.5 (178.5)	Pelicans
Pistons	1.5 (183.5)	Cavaliers
Hornets	4.5 (176.5)	Celtics
Warriors	7.5 (179.5)	Thunder
Magic	4.5 (176.5)	Trail Blazers
Wizards	1.5 (183.5)	Kings
Bucks	2.5 (178.5)	Spurs
Jazz	3.5 (180.5)	Clippers

all games held in Las Vegas

CFL
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ROUGHRIDERS	8.5 (53.5)	Tiger-Cats

TOP PLAY

Tempo won't keep up with Jones

By MIKE TURAY

Twenty-four hours after a five-point defeat to the Lynx, Sabrina Ionescu and the Liberty travel to Toronto on the second leg of a back-to-back to take on the Tempo.

The expansion Tempo are led by three-level scorer Marina Mabrey, who averages 21.2 points per game. The Notre Dame product exploded for a career-best 53 points against the Sparks late last month. But since that impactful performance, the Tempo have not won a game, and the injury bug has run rampant on their roster.

Both Kiki Rice and Brittney Sykes, backcourt contributors, are on the shelf. The frontcourt depth is also thin, with Nyara Sabally and Temi Fagbenle out. This sets the stage for the Liberty, particularly Breanna Stewart and Jonquel Jones, to take advantage in the paint.

Though Stewart remains a steady scorer, Jones has eight double-doubles already this season, and I'm confident in backing her to produce another one Sunday. The perennial All-Star posted a dominant 22-point, 17-rebound effort against Toronto earlier this season.

I'm hesitant to bet on the Liberty to cover the spread, given their 1-6 record ATS in away games this season. However, I am willing to parlay a New York win with Jones notching a double-double.

THE PLAY: Liberty moneyline + Jonquel Jones to record a double-double (FanDuel Sportsbook).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Yankees	Warren (R)		7-4	4.15	12-6	—	—	0-0	0-2	15.0	7.80
Nationals	Cavalli (R)	(1:35pm)	5-4	3.88	7-12	0-1	27.00	0-1	1-0	15.1	2.93
Red Sox	Tolle (L)		5-6	3.14	5-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	16.0	3.38
Mets	Thornton (L)	(1:40pm)	0-1	4.35	0-2	—	—	—	0-1	10.0	4.35
Guardians	Cantillo (L)		7-4	3.66	13-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	16.0	1.69
Marlins	Phillips (R)	(1:40pm)	2-3	3.28	4-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	15.2	4.02
Phillies	Wheeler (R)		9-1	2.28	12-2	0-1	4.50	1-1	2-0	18.2	2.89
Tigers	Skubal (L)	(1:40pm)	5-4	3.06	7-5	1-0	3.86	2-0	2-1	17.0	3.18
Blue Jays	Gausman (R)		4-8	4.32	8-11	1-0	0.00	3-1	0-3	17.1	5.71
Padres	Márquez (R)	(4:10pm)	4-2	5.02	5-2	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	16.0	6.19
Royals	Lugo (R)		3-6	4.56	8-10	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-2	15.1	9.39
Orioles	Baz (R)	(1:35pm)	4-9	4.21	5-13	0-0	5.68	1-1	0-2	18.0	5.00
Mariners	Hancock (R)		6-4	3.22	9-8	0-0	6.00	0-0	1-1	18.0	3.00
Rays	Seymour (L)	(1:40pm)	6-1	4.11	4-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	16.1	3.86
Athletics	Ginn (R)		7-5	3.10	11-6	—	—	0-0	2-1	16.0	3.38
White Sox	Schultz (L)	(2:10pm)	2-6	6.00	3-7	1-0	1.80	1-0	0-3	13.1	8.78
Angels	Soriano (R)		8-5	3.40	10-9	0-1	5.40	0-2	0-1	14.0	6.43
Twins	Bradley (R)	(2:10pm)	8-3	3.67	11-6	0-0	4.26	0-0	2-0	19.0	1.89
Astros	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rangers	TBD	(2:35pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewers	Gasser (L)		2-3	4.15	4-4	—	—	—	1-0	11.2	3.86
Pirates	Skenes (R)	(12:15pm)	7-8	3.58	7-12	1-0	0.00	2-2	1-1	15.0	7.80
Cubs	Boyd (L)		4-1	4.31	6-2	0-0	0.00	1-3	2-0	15.2	1.72
Reds	Abbott (L)	(1:40pm)	5-5	3.92	10-9	0-0	0.00	3-1	0-1	16.1	4.41
Braves	Ritchie (R)		1-2	4.60	3-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	14.0	9.00
Cardinals	May (R)	(2:15pm)	5-6	4.55	9-8	0-0	67.50	0-2	0-0	7.1	13.50
Rockies	Lorenzen (R)		3-9	6.46	8-11	0-0	7.36	0-2	1-0	16.0	3.38
Giants	McDonald (R)	(4:05pm)	3-7	5.46	5-7	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	13.2	7.24
D'Backs	Gallen (R)		3-9	6.34	6-13	0-2	8.00	2-7	0-3	18.1	7.36
Dodgers	Sheehan (R)	(4:10pm)	4-6	4.91	8-8	0-1	5.59	0-1	1-2	12.2	5.68

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Pirates sweep Brewers

Esmerlyn Valdez hit his third home run of the day, and the Pirates edged the NL Central-leading Brewers 3-2 to sweep a doubleheader in Pittsburgh.

The Pirates won the first game 7-6, as Valdez hit two home runs — including a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning — and drove in six runs. Brewers right-hander **Jacob Misiorowski** has been scratched from his scheduled start Sunday because of arm fatigue and will also miss the All-Star Game on Tuesday night.

● In Chicago, **Chase Meidro**th hit an RBI double in the sixth inning, five pitchers combined on a four-hitter and the White Sox sent the Athletics to their eighth straight loss with a 1-0 victory.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Ryan Vilade** hit a three-run homer, **Ben Williamson** posted a career-best four hits and **Jonathan Aranda** had three more and an RBI to give the Rays a 6-1 win over the Mariners.

● In Miami, **Tanner Bibee** threw 6 2/3 solid innings and the Guardians beat the Marlins 4-1.

● In St. Louis, **Lars Nootbaar** hit a three-run home run and later scored a run, leading the Cardinals to a 4-1 victory over the Braves.

● In Arlington, Texas, **Yordan Alvarez** had another moonshot for his AL-leading 31st home run, **LaMonte Wade Jr.** hit his first career grand slam and the Astros beat the Rangers 9-3.

● Already in first place in the AL Central, the surprising White Sox went with the expected choice and selected UCLA shortstop **Roch Cholowsky** with the first pick of the MLB amateur draft.

A 6-foot-2 right-handed hitter, Cholowsky was a Golden Spikes finalist at UCLA and had a 1.088 OPS with 21 homers and 60 RBIs in his junior season. He was the Big Ten Player of the Year.

GOLF: Fog delays Scottish Open

The notorious Scottish haar off the North Sea brought two fog delays, leaving **Matt Fitzpatrick** and **Michael Thorbjornsen** atop the leaderboard with a long final day ahead to finish the Scottish Open in North Berwick and move south to England for the final major of the year.

Thorbjornsen birdied his last two holes to reach 11 under par through 13 holes, while Fitzpatrick missed the green on No. 8 and failed to save par before play was stopped.

● In Evian-Les-Bains, France, **Haeran Ryu** set the scoring record for LPGA majors with an 11-under 60, giving the South Korean player a three-shot lead in the Evian Championship as she goes for a second straight major.

ETC.: Seahawks sold to Khosla family

The Seattle Seahawks are being sold to the Khosla family, including **Vinod Khosla**, in accordance with the wishes of late team owner Paul Allen, the team announced. The Khosla family entered into a formal agreement to purchase the defending Super Bowl champions for $9.612 billion, according to a person familiar with the deal.

● The Milwaukee Bucks re-signed swingman **Gary Trent Jr.** to a four-year deal worth $64 million, ESPN reported.

STITCHES

Royals will outslug the O's

The Royals play the Orioles in Baltimore. I couldn't think of a better way to finish the first half of the season. Kansas City's Seth Lugo is still an MLB pitcher even though he has given up 16 runs on 25 hits over his past 15 $^{1}/_{3}$ innings. You know, Seth, maybe you should have a long conversation with Justin Verlander and try to move on to the next chapter. Lugo has won once in his past seven starts.

Baltimore counters with Shane Baz, who is too young (27) to go home but has been just as effective. Baz has won once in his past six starts and has coughed up 21 runs and 36 hits over his past 35 $^{2}/_{3}$ innings. A case of the runs is expected. We believe the Royals will score at least one more. Bet $50 on KC.

+$

Seattle grabbed an early 1-0 lead. But Logan Gilbert gave up four runs and the Rays mauled the bland Marinaras 6-1. Down -102 kengriffeys.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 12	MON July 13	TUE July 14	WED July 15	THU July 16
	Washington 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	All-Star Game 8:00 Fox 880 AM	NO GAME	NO GAME
	Boston 1:40 PIX11 880 AM	NO GAME	All-Star Game 8:00 Fox 880 AM	NO GAME	Philadelphia 7:10 ESPN 880 AM
	Toronto 3:00 Fox 5	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Dallas 9:00 Prime Video

Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday	
	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		Washington Spirit 8:00 ESPN

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
Noon	2026 MLB All-Star Futures Games: A.L. vs. N.L.	NBC
Noon	Brewers at Pirates	Peacock
1:35 p.m.	Yankees at Nationals	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
1:40 p.m.	Red Sox at Mets	PIX 11, 880 AM
4 p.m.	Blue Jays at Padres	MLBN
	WNBA BASKETBALL	
3 p.m.	Liberty at Tempo	Fox 5
7 p.m.	Sky at Wings	ESPN
9 p.m.	Fever at Aces	NBC, Peacock
	NBA BASKETBALL: SUMMER LEAGUE	
3 p.m.	Suns vs. Pelicans	ESPN2
4 p.m.	Cavaliers vs. Pistons	Prime Video
5 p.m.	Hornets vs. Celtics	ESPN2
6 p.m.	Thunder vs. Warriors	Prime Video
7 p.m.	Magic vs. Trail Blazers	ESPNU
8 p.m.	Kings vs. Wizards	Prime Video
9 p.m.	Spurs vs. Bucks	ESPN
10 p.m.	Clippers vs. Jazz	Prime Video
	TENNIS	
8 a.m.	WTA: Wimbledon, Doubles Championship	ESPN
11 a.m.	ATP: Wimbledon, Singles' Championship	ESPN
4:30 a.m.(Mon.)	ATP Bastad- Early Rounds	Tennis
4:30 a.m.(Mon.)	ATP Gstaad= Early Rounds	Tennis
4:30 a.m.(Mon.)	ATP Umag- Early Rounds	Tennis
4:30 a.m.(Mon.)	WTA Athens- Early Rounds	Tennis
4:30 a.m.(Mon.)	WTA Iasi- Early Rounds	Tennis
	NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER	
4 p.m.	Portland Thorns at Seattle Reign	ESPN
	GOLF	
10 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: Genesis Scottish Open, Final Round	Golf
Noon	DP World/PGA Tour: Genesis Scottish Open, Final Round	CBS
Noon	PGA Tour Champions: Kaulig Companies Championship, Final Rd.	Golf
2:30 p.m.	2026 American Century Championship: Final Round	NBC
4 p.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: ISCO Championship, Final Round	Golf
	BASKETBALL	
4 p.m.	BIG3: Week 4	CBS
	CFL FOOTBALL	
7 p.m.	Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Saskatchewan Roughriders	CBSSN
	AUTO RACING	
7:30 a.m.	FIM MotoGP: Germany Grand Prix	FS1
7 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart, In-Season Challenge - Round 3	TNT
	SOFTBALL	
3 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Bandits at Cascade	ESPN2
8 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Talons at Spark	MLBN
	HORSE RACING	
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
	BEACH VOLLEYBALL	
4 p.m.	AVP: League Week 5	CBSSN
	CYCLING	
6:30 a.m.	UCI: Tour de France, Stage 9	NBCSN
	X GAMES	
1 p.m.	MoonPay X Games Chiba 2026: Day 3	ABC
7 p.m.	MoonPay X Games Chiba 2026: Day 3	ESPN2

ODDS & ENDS

WIMBLEDON

Sunday, Men's Final
Jannik Sinner vs.
Alexander Zverev

WINNER	ODDS
Sinner	-425
Zverev	+325
FIRST SET WINNER	**ODDS**
Sinner	-275
Zverev	+190
FINAL SET TALLY	**ODDS**
Sinner 3-0	+135
Sinner 3-1	+250
Sinner 3-2	+500
Zverev 3-0	+900
Zverev 3-1	+900
Zverev 3-2	+850

WNBA

Odds to win 2026
Finals championship

TEAM	ODDS
Minnesota Lynx	+150
Las Vegas Aces	+340
New York Liberty	+375
Atlanta Dreams	10/1
Golden State Valkyries	12/1
Dallas Wings	17/1
Indiana Fever	18/1
Los Angeles Sparks	150/1
Phoenix Mercury	175/1
Washington Mystics	200/1
Chicago Sky	350/1
Toronto Tempo	350/1
Seattle Storm	500/1
Connecticut Sun	500/1
Portland Fire	500/1
LIBERTY TO MAKE PLAYOFFS	**ODDS**
No	50/1
LIBERTY WIN TOTAL	**ODDS**
Over 27.5	-125
Under 27.5	-105

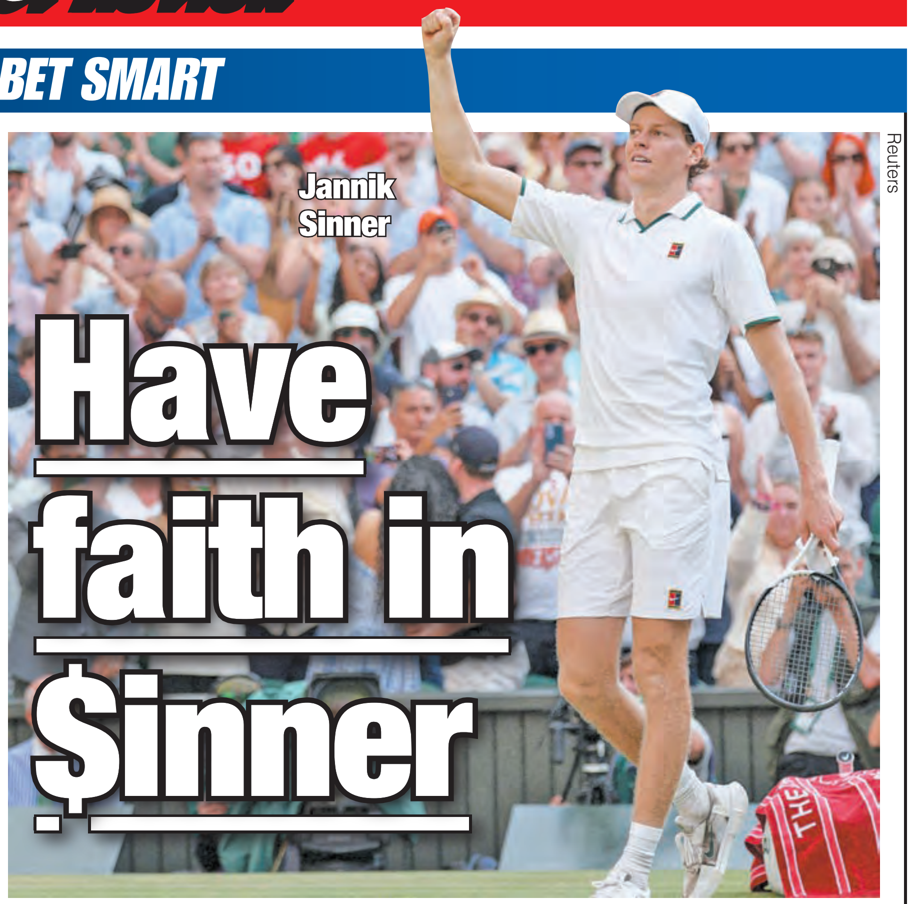
Favorites to win
2026 MVP award

PLAYER	ODDS
A'ja Wilson (LV)	-330
Paige Bueckers (Dal)	+800
Olivia Miles (Min)	+900
Caitlin Clark (Ind)	10/1
Breanna Stewart (NY)	30/1
Kelsey Plum (LA)	100/1
Rhyne Howard (Atl)	100/1
Allisha Gray (Atl)	100/1
Sabrina Ionescu (NY)	150/1
Jessica Shepard (Dal)	150/1

Favorites to win
2026 Defensive
Player of the Year

PLAYER	ODDS
A'ja Wilson (LV)	-145
Rhyne Howard (Atl)	+650
Gabby Williams (GS)	+850
Breanna Stewart (NY)	11/1
Angel Reese (Atl)	15/1
Natasha Howard (Min)	15/1

BET SMART



Reuters

Have faith in $inner

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

Alexander Zverev is in the form of his life and looking for his second consecutive Grand Slam title, but he's still a decided underdog against Jannik Sinner in the men's final at Wimbledon on Sunday morning.

Such is the state of men's tennis at the moment, where Sinner and the currently injured Carlos Alcaraz are considered to be in a class of their own, even when going up against the World No. 3 and arguably the hottest player on the planet.

Though it might seem unjust to see Zverev at +350 for this match, the more you dig into this matchup, the more it makes sense. The argument for the underdog is simple: There might not be a better time to back Zverev than right now, especially as an underdog.

The German had spent years at the top of the "best active player never to win a Grand Slam title" list, but that burden was lifted when he won the French Open last month. Sinner was sent tumbling out of that tournament in the second round after the Italian was wobbled by the Paris heat.

It's expected to be near 80 degrees at Wimbledon on Sunday.

Everything else outside of Zverev's current form and the question marks about Sinner's ability to handle the conditions point toward the Italian. Not only is he the defending champion at Wimbledon, but he's also got a massive edge in the head-to-head against Zverev. After losing four of his first five meetings against Zverev, Sinner has won nine in a row, and he's won the past 14 sets these two have played.

Sinner and Zverev have met four times in 2026, and Sinner has won five of the eight sets by scores of 6-3, 6-2 or 6-1. It's been one-way traffic.

It does need to be noted that Sinner's path to the final has been soft. The Italian made quick work of Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, and that's no small feat even with the Serb closing in on his 40th birthday, but that was Sinner's only battle with a seeded player at the All England Club.

Zverev was a whopping favorite against wild-card entry Arthur Fery in the semifinals, but he took out Taylor Fritz and Jiri Lehecka in the previous two rounds. Though those victories should buoy Zverev's confidence in this match, it's a whole different ballgame against Sinner.

I have a feeling that Zverev will be a trendy underdog Sunday morning, so you may be able to be patient and wait until the last minute to lock in a bet on Sinner.

My favorite angle is backing the World No. 1 to win in straight sets (+140, DraftKings), but there's also a live-betting scenario to look out for in this tilt: Zverev to choke away a lead.

Zverev did get the monkey off his back with his win at Roland Garros, but he's no stranger to squandering big leads in the biggest moments of his career. He was up 2-0 on Dominic Thiem in the 2020 U.S. Open final, 2-1 against Carlos Alcaraz at the 2024 French Open final, and blew a 2-0 lead to Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals at the 2024 Australian Open. Those are just the most notable of his collapses. There are plenty of others to choose from.

If Zverev is able to get ahead in this matchup, I'd be keeping a keen eye on the price of Sinner to come back, even if we see the newly minted French Open champion take a commanding 2-0 lead.

NATIONAL TREASURES

Jarad Wilk

Fantasy Insanity

NL dominates bargain fantasy All-Star squad

BY THE end of the day, we will have reached the intermission of another season in which fantasy managers have seen top picks suffer long-term injuries (hello, Aaron Judge) or long-term disappointment (hello, Kyle Tucker and Vlad Guerrero Jr.).

But we've also seen Jacob Misiorowski dominate opposing hitters with a 40 percent strikeout rate and witnessed Jordan Walker emphatically remove his bust label. We will also see 26 first-time All-Stars, and, fun fact, Juan Soto will make approximately $25.82 million more this season than the combined salaries of all those players.

Below is a group of players who have provided big returns on their average draft positions, according to Fantasy Alarm. Here is Roto Rage's fifth Bargain Bin All-Star Team:

FIRST BASE

Luis García Jr., Nationals (251.55 ADP)

Was tied with Kyle Schwarber for the league lead in homers while also having the most RBIs and the best slugging percentage from May 9 through Thursday.

SECOND BASE

Otto Lopez, Marlins (221)

Entered the weekend with the best batting average in the majors (.347), and ranked in the top 20 in slugging percentage, on-base percentage and OPS.

SHORTSTOP

CJ Abrams, Nationals (83.6)

Leads NL shortstops in homers and RBIs while hitting .276 with the second-best OBP, slugging percentage and OPS. He also stole 15 bases.

THIRD BASE

TJ Rumfield, Rockies (N/A)

An average hovering around .300 with double-digit homers, 47 RBIs, 42 runs and a .856 OPS from a player who was the 574th-ranked hitter (No. 1,034 overall), according to FantasyPros, heading into the season.

CATCHER

Dillon Dingler, Tigers (245.93)

The 2025 Gold Glove winner has more homers and RBIs, and as many walks, through his first 85 games this year than he did in 126 last year.

OUTFIELDERS

Bryan Reynolds, Pirates (167.35)

Ranked second in the NL in runs, fourth in on-base percentage, third in walks, 12th in OPS, 13th in RBIs and 24th in slugging percentage.

Jordan Walker, Cardinals (233.25)

Over his first 90 games this year, he hit .294 with 22 homers, 73 RBIs, 59 runs, 12 stolen bases and an .893 OPS.

TJ Remfield

Imagn Images

Brandon Marsh, Phillies (292.1)

Known more for his defense, the first-time All-Star already has more homers in his first 89 games than he did in 133 games last year. He also has career-high marks in average, slugging percentage and OPS.

UTILITY

Jake Bauers, Brewers (327.6)

Through 83 games, the 30-year-old owned career highs in home runs, runs, RBIs, batting average, OBP, slugging percentage, OPS and WAR.

STARTING PITCHERS

Jacob Misiorowski, Brewers (85.1)

A Cy Young favorite selected outside of the top 80 overall picks? Yes, please.

Braxton Ashcraft, Pirates (223.88)

Replaced teammate Paul Skenes in the All-Star Game, and entered his start Friday with the same number of strikeouts (122), more wins (nine), fewer walks and a lower WHIP than the reigning Cy Young winner. He also is among the top 20 in the majors in strikeout rate (27.8 percent), walk rate (5.7 percent) and swinging-strike rate (13.3 percent).

Cam Schlittler, Yankees (111.9)

See Misiorowski.

RELIEVER

Louis Varland, Blue Jays (263.63)

Struck out 35.9 percent of the batters he faced while maintaining a 0.94 ERA and 13 percent swinging-strike rate over his first 43 appearances. Went 18-for-18 in save opportunities.

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INSANITY ALL-STARS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

POS.: PLAYER	TM
C: Hunter Goodman	COL
1B: Bryce Harper	PHI
2B: Otto Lopez	MIA
SS: CJ Abrams	WAS
3B: Sal Stewart	CIN
MI: Xavier Edwards	MIA
CI: Alec Burleson	STL
OF: Pete Crow-Armstrong	CHC
OF: Jordan Walker	STL
OF: Andy Pages	LAD
UTIL: Kyle Schwarber	PHI
SP: Jacob Misiorowski	MIL
SP: Shohei Ohtani	LAD
SP: Chase Burns	CIN
SP: Cristopher Sánchez	PHI
SP: Max Meyer	MIA
RP: Mason Miller	SD

AMERICAN LEAGUE

POS.: PLAYER	TM
C: Dillon Dingler	DET
1B: Nick Kurtz	A'sS
2B: Brooks Lee	MIN
SS: Bobby Witt Jr.	KC
3B: Junior Caminero	TB
MI: Kevin McGonigle	DET
CI: Ben Rice	NYY
OF: Yordan Alvarez	HOU
OF: Byron Buxton	MIN
OF: Randy Arozarena	SEA
UTIL: Miguel Vargas	CWS
SP: Cam Schlittler	NYY
SP: Sonny Gray	BOS
SP: Drew Rasmussen	TB
SP: Logan Gilbert	SEA
SP: Joe Ryan	MIN
RP: Louis Varland	TOR

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Baby Got Jac

Submit to jwilk@nypost.com

It's an All-Star dumping ground

FANTASY ALARM

Howard Bender

THE FANTASY baseball All-Star break is the ultimate midseason crossroads. For many managers, this four-day hiatus is a time to step away. But while your league mates are sunbathing and enjoying the Home Run Derby, savvy managers know this temporary dormancy creates the perfect market to sell high on over-performing assets.

It is not about being underhanded. This passive engagement by some fantasy managers is your golden opportunity to reshape your roster for the second-half sprint. If you are looking to cash in on some potentially unsustainable production, look no further than Brewers pitcher Kyle Harrison and Phillies outfielder Brandon Marsh.

Unless the Brewers officially place the young southpaw on the 15-day IL, you are under no fantasy law to broadcast that Harrison exited his final first-half start with elbow soreness. Casual managers will only see his overall body of work, which includes a brilliant, near 30 percent strikeout rate.

However, a deeper look reveals an exhausted young arm. Harrison has already logged $83\frac{2}{3}$ innings this year — the second-highest workload of his brief professional career. Hitters are beginning to catch up as hit-fatiguing frames mount. Capitalize on his pristine surface stats right now and flip Harrison for an elite, durable offensive weapon before the wheels fall off.

Just make sure that offensive weapon is not Brandon Marsh. At 28 years old, the Phillies outfielder appears to be having a late-career breakout, carrying a shiny .307 batting average and 15 home runs — just one shy of his career high. Do not be fooled by the flashing neon lights of his stat line.

Marsh's underlying profile is a ticking time bomb. His strikeout rate remains dangerously elevated, his walk rate is virtually nonexistent, and his chase rate on pitches outside the strike zone makes what he is doing right now unsustainable.

The secret fuel behind Marsh's All-Star success is a bloated .381 BABIP. Regression is a statistical certainty in baseball. When that inflated BABIP plummets back to earth and the strikeouts continue to pile up, Marsh's fantasy value will crater. Instead of rounding the bases, he will be serving up far more doughnuts than homers.

The All-Star break offers a rare window to target the disengaged manager, and sell Harrison and Marsh at peak value to secure your title run.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.

Schlittler flashes resilience in last test before ASG

By GREG JOYCE

WASHINGTON — Cam Schlittler has made himself the AL Cy Young favorite in the first half by leaning heavily on three different kinds of fastballs.

The Nationals, his final test before the All-Star break, have been one of the majors' best fastball-hitting teams.

That made for an intriguing matchup Saturday afternoon, which started poorly for Schlittler when he gave up a pair of solo home runs in the first inning before pitching into the seventh as the Yankees came back to beat the Nationals 4-2 for their third straight win.

YANKS NOTES

In an ace-like effort, Schlittler rebounded from the early ambushes by not giving up a run the rest of the way, putting the finishing touches on a terrific first half (2.05 ERA) that should earn him the start for the American League in Tuesday's All-Star Game.

"Good pitchers are going to battle through that or you're going to crumble," Schlittler said. "I feel like I crumbled a little bit against Detroit [two starts ago when he gave up four home runs]. I feel like I can take today as a win in terms of making those adjustments and getting deeper into the game than I probably should've been."

Up next could be a start in the All-Star Game, on what would essentially be Schlittler's between-starts bullpen day. Aaron Boone said before the game that there was a "good chance" Schlittler would be able to throw in the game, and while the right-hander said he did not yet know if he has the green light, he expected to find out in the next day or two.

➤ **David Bednar**, after throwing two innings to close out Friday's win, came back for the ninth inning Saturday to record his 18th save of the season. He now has a career-long 19-inning scoreless streak after an up-and-down start to the year.

➤ **Max Fried** (left elbow bone bruise) was in line to throw about 45 pitches in a simulated game Saturday afternoon at Double-A Somerset.

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Rising Czech star recovers from 2nd-set meltdown to win Wimbledon

CZECH-MATE: Despite blowing five match points in a chaotic second set, Linda Noskova rallied to beat Karolina Muchova in an all-Czech final Saturday. AP

Super 'Kova

By ANDREW DAMPF

LONDON — Linda Noskova is the latest in a long line of Czech women to win Wimbledon.

The 21-year-old Noskova recovered from a second-set meltdown in which she wasted five match points to overcome Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 in an all-Czech final on Saturday for her first Grand Slam trophy.

When Noskova finally won it with a service winner on her sixth match point, she covered her face and dropped down to the grass on her back.

"It's never easy to get the last point," Noskova said. "Karo, you really made me work for it."

Noskova became the third Czech woman in four years to win the grass-court major, after Marketa Vondrousova in 2023 and Barbora Krejcikova in 2024.

Muchova and Noskova played doubles together at the 2024 Paris Olympics and finished fourth.

"I am so glad that I could play my first Grand Slam final with you," Noskova told Muchova during her victory speech. "We made history today. I believe that all our Czech fans at home are proud of us, so no matter the result today I think it was a good day for both of us."

Petra Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, was in attendance, as was the greatest Czech-born player of them all, Martina Navratilova — who won a record nine singles titles at the All England Club.

Navratilova looked on from the Royal Box, where she was seated next to Kate, the Princess of Wales, who presented the Venus Rosewater Dish trophy to Noskova.

Noskova grew emotional during her victory speech when she mentioned her mother, who died two years ago.

"I definitely would not be standing here without her, so thank you," said Noskova, who then looked up and blew a kiss to the sky.

Navratilova wiped away tears listening to Noskova's tribute to her mother.

Moments earlier, Muchova began her runner-up speech by calling Noskova "my ex-friend.

"I'm kidding, obviously," Muchova quickly added. "You're so young and this was your first final of a Grand Slam and the way you handled it ... was really unbelievable."

It was the 29-year-old Muchova's second Grand Slam final after getting beat by Iga Swiatek at the French Open in 2023.

In the men's final on Sunday, top-ranked Jannik Sinner will attempt to defend his title against French Open champion Alexander Zverev.

Noskova led 5-2 in the second set before she lost five straight games to send it to a third.

When Noskova wasted a chance to serve it out at 5-3 in the second, she placed fingers in both ears to drown out the crowd noise on the changeover. Then she draped one of Wimbledon's strawberry-red towels over her head after she dropped her serve again to give Muchova a 6-5 lead and a chance for her opponent to serve it out — which Muchova did.

The 12th-ranked Noskova will climb to No. 7 — a new career-high — when the next rankings are released on Monday.

She is the youngest woman to win Wimbledon since Kvitova was also 21 in 2011.

— AP

Sinner finds top form as final awaits

Associated Press

LONDON — Jannik Sinner was still struggling to rediscover his rhythm a month after his meltdown at the French Open and Novak Djokovic was lurking in the Wimbledon semifinals.

Sure, Sinner had won his opening five matches of his title defense at the All England Club. But none of those performances resembled the way that Sinner awed the tennis world earlier this year during a 30-match winning streak.

So how did the top-ranked Sinner suddenly rediscover the form that enabled him to completely overwhelm Djokovic — the seven-time Wimbledon champion — during Friday's highly awaited encounter on Centre Court?

The answer lies in a return to familiar gound.

Instead of continuing to toil away on Wimbledon's grass courts, Sinner spent Wednesday practicing on an indoor hard court, the top-ranked player's team said.

Hard courts are the surface where Sinner has won three of his four Grand Slam titles and the indoor setting was reminiscent of where Sinner learned to play while growing up in a small Alpine village in the Italian Dolomites.

The decision by his two coaches, Darren Cahill and Simone Vagnozzi, enabled Sinner to regain the timing that has made him the strongest and most feared baseline player in the sport.

"He's reminded himself just how much that ball can explode off his racket," said Andre Agassi, who was also coached by Cahill.

Now, he's favored to seal his second straight Wimbledon title against French Open champion Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final.

Zverev, whose breakthrough at Roland Garros came in his fourth Grand Slam final, is attempting to become the first man in the professional era (since 1968) to win his second major title at the next event immediately after his first.

McGregor's return to UFC a dud after immediate injury

By ERICH RICHTER

ALL FOR NAUGHT: Conor McGregor's long-awaited return to the cage lasted just seconds as a knee injury ended his fight with Max Holloway. AP

LAS VEGAS — Conor McGregor just can't stay healthy.

No other way to describe it.

McGregor charged at Max Holloway for a head kick and landed funny on his leg in the opening seconds.

His knee buckled and appeared to pop out of place a few times before the fight was called due to a doctor's stoppage.

It's perhaps the most disappointing finish in UFC history, and the fans let McGregor hear it post-fight with a steady diet of boos for the enigmatic UFC star.

"We're assuming it's a blown ACL," Dana White said to reporters after McGregor's loss. "I don't think there was a preexisting injury. The ceremonial weigh-in video had over 80 million views. Someone would have noticed."

A source told The Post that the injury was not preexisting and the plan all along was to come out with that jumping head kick in the fight.

McGregor had been practicing that kick for weeks, and even in the buildup to this week's fight, he threw it multiple times successfully without issue.

Though McGregor came down awkwardly this time, he was forced into a brief grappling exchange with Holloway, who was happy to stand on top and ground-and-pound the Irishman.

Oddly enough, McGregor did not get back up when Holloway called him to his feet as the crowd held its breath, hoping it was not the same injury he suffered nearly five years ago to the day.

Eventually, McGregor stumbled to his feet, wincing in pain, unable to plant his right leg.

When his knee buckled one final time, McGregor threw his hands up helplessly, knowing that this wasn't going to get any better.

Holloway even told referee Mike Beltran that his opponent was completely compromised.

Beltran waved the fight off, and McGregor quickly left the Octagon and went to the back without speaking to UFC color commentator Joe Rogan.

"I would like to speak with him," Rogan said as McGregor departed.

"Let's give it up for Conor McGregor, guys," Holloway said in the cage as boos erupted. "What an absolute animal. When we was in here, he kept trying to say I was trying to call our fight, and he kept asking to fight on."

Holloway called for a rematch with McGregor and implored the fans to cheer for him as he walked off, but was serenaded by boos from angry fans who felt they were cheated out of a real fight.

"What can I say? I had him weak in the knees, I guess," Holloway added.

It's a tough pill to swallow for the UFC and McGregor, as his fighting career is certainly in jeopardy, if not over altogether.

McGregor has one fight left on his UFC contract, and one would expect him to be out indefinitely if he indeed did tear significant ligaments in his knee.

He appeared livid as he walked off, with fans seemingly turning on him following the injury.

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Bichette still nursing ankle soreness

By DAN MARTIN

METS NOTES

Bo Bichette was out of the lineup for a second straight game Saturday as interim manager Andy Green said the third baseman was dealing with "right ankle soreness" after taking several foul balls off his leg while the Mets were in Atlanta.

Bichette was healthy enough to pinch hit for Zack Short with two on and one out in the bottom of the seventh of Saturday's 4-0 loss to Boston at Citi Field.

He walked to load the bases before being removed for pinch runner Tyrone Taylor.

Green said Bichette was best used simply as a pinch hitter.

He could also sit Sunday as the team heads into the All-Star break.

"It's a day-to-day thing," Green said before the game. "He's played through a lot. The guy is a warrior."

Bichette has had an inconsistent season with the Mets after signing with the team in the offseason, but had been heating up recently.

In Atlanta, Bichette went 8-for-18 with a double over the four-game series.

But in three games since then, Bichette was just 2-for-13 before being held out of the lineup Friday and Saturday against the Red Sox.

Still, after opening the season with a .570 OPS in his first 61 games, Bichette put up an OPS of .870 in 33 games heading into Saturday.

With Bichette on the bench, the Mets used Brett Baty at third base again Saturday. Baty went 0-for-3 with a walk to snap his career-long hitting streak at 10 games.

➤ **Marcus Semien** is "nearing a rehab assignment," Green said before Saturday's game. Semien has progressed well after being sidelined with a left hip-flexor strain since June 25. Complicating matters is that the upcoming All-Star break will make minor league rehab games harder to find. Green, who was the team's senior vice president for player development until taking over in the dugout, said he'd be hesitant to play Semien — or any other player — in a Florida Complex League game due to the inconsistent pitching they'd see there.

Green said Semien was able to "run aggressively" and was moving around well, but might be held back by the lack of high-level rehab games.

The same could be true of **Luis Robert Jr.** (lumbar spine disc herniation). He had a productive night at the plate with Double-A Binghamton in a rehab game Friday and is getting closer to being activated, according to Green.

The outfielder has been out since late April.

Robert's return, whenever it happens, could give the Mets some decisions to make.

A.J. Ewing and **Carson Benge** have been two of the only bright spots. The team is determined to keep Ewing in center field and not move him to second base outside of emergency situations, despite his ability to play there.

➤ **Kodai Senga** has pitched himself out of almost every role with the Mets, but there were some encouraging signs from his scoreless inning in relief in Friday's loss. Green didn't rule out using the right-hander in that capacity again.

"It's something he's unaccustomed to," Green said. "We'll see how he responds to those types of opportunities."

Green added Senga, with his upper-90s velocity and forkball, "can be a back-end piece" in the pen, but the Mets will determine whether he's able to handle the role physically.

"We'll learn that in time," Green said.

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Bill Kostroun; Corey Sipkin

NOSE THE WAY

Reader is first option to fill Giant hole left by Dex trade

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

He was hired the last week of January, and of course he instantly reached out to the players expected to be in his charge.

Contact was made swiftly with Dexter Lawrence, the biggest and best of those players. Dennis Johnson, the new Giants defensive line coach, made sure he was proactive with the centerpiece of the group up front.

"I kept texting him … hit up everyone in the whole group, introducing myself, letting people know who I am, where I'm coming from, that I'm happy to be a part of the Giants," Johnson told The Post late in the spring. "Everybody, even him, was very kind and welcoming when I first got here. Then things changed and you got to adjust."

Yeah, things changed.

As it turned out, those texts were the full extent of the involvement Johnson experienced with Lawrence, the 344-pound nose tackle foreseen as the anchor of the defensive line. What started out, seemingly, as intense but fairly ordinary disgruntlement between team and player regarding a contract devolved into hard feelings, bruised ego and, ultimately, an impasse that led to a football divorce.

Johnson and the man responsible for bringing him to the Giants, head coach John Harbaugh, planned on a defense with Lawrence, but those plans officially went awry, and Lawrence was traded April 20 to the Bengals.

As Johnson said, you have to adjust.

"One day you think he's here and then like the NFL is, forever changing, then it's different," Johnson said. "Coach Harbs does a heck of a job making adjustments with personnel, finding the players we need to fit our particular scheme.

"As soon as something like that happens you have to find the parts to put together so you can keep moving forward and keep playing good defense, because we all know it all starts up front."

What's up front for the Giants does not look as formidable without Lawrence, though his 2025 performance was not up to his usual highest-of-the-high standard. After three consecutive Pro Bowl appearances, Lawrence did not make the cut last season, managing only one-half sack in 17 games after amassing 21 sacks in his previous 44 games. That dropoff triggered a tedious point-counterpoint about how often Lawrence was double-teamed. The truth remains that he is one of the NFL's most feared interior pass rushers, and without him not one Giants nose tackle candidate comes close.

First up to try to replace Lawrence is 10-year veteran DJ Reader, signed to a two-year, $12.5 million contract. At 330 pounds, Reader has the bulk for nose tackle and is a proven run stopper, but he has far less pass-rush prowess than Lawrence. Although he smiled and said, "I'm not necessarily his replacement" when asked about Lawrence, in fact, he is.

"He's very talented and very skillful, and he's a vet in his own right," Johnson said of Reader. "He has this unique skill set where he's a physical dude, but he's seen enough blocks in his career where he has anticipation and can play them a lot quicker than most cats. His eyes move quickly, His hands move with his eyes, he has that sense to him. He's gonna command a double-team, he's gonna win single blocks out there."

The only other realistic option is newcomer Leki Fotu — a 330-pound, 27-year-old career backup.

Johnson, 37, was Harbaugh's choice to replace Andre Patterson as the defensive line coach, a role Johnson filled in 2024 and 2025 for Harbaugh with the Ravens. In 2024, the Baltimore defense gave up the fewest rushing yards in the league (80.1 per game) and was first in fewest opponents' rushing first downs (69). The Giants were 31st in the NFL in run defense in 2025, allowing 145.3 yards per game, a failing — along with an alarming inability to hold on to second-half leads — that led to the demise of Shane Bowen's hold on the defensive coordinator job. He was fired 12 games into the season.

This is why stopping the run is an "every day, almost all day" conversation between Johnson and his defensive linemen.

"This is my third year with coach Harbs," Johnson said. "The number one thing we're gonna do on defense, come hell or high water, is stop the run. That's what we're gonna teach, that's what we're gonna preach, that's what we're gonna get executed. It's on the walls in meeting rooms, it's in most of our team meetings, defensive meetings, it's in my position meeting. That's where it begins and ends.

"It's football, right? People try to gain yards, and you're on defense and trying to make sure they don't gain yards. What's the easiest way to gain yards? Just run the ball right down the middle."

Excellence out of the nose tackle spot is paramount to successfully stopping the run. Reader, 32, has been with the Texans, Bengals and Lions, and in six of his seasons earned a run defense grade over 73 by Pro Football Focus.

Johnson thought he would have Lawrence, not Reader, along for the ride, but plans changed.

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OUT OF THE SHADOW: The Giants face a daunting task trying to replace nose tackle Dexter Lawrence (97). Among the options is free agent addition DJ Reader.

MOMENT HAS PAST

Open history not focus of Scheffler, Spieth & British field

FUTURE IS NOW: Scottie Scheffler (top left) won the British Open last year (right). Jordan Spieth (top right) won the Open last time it visited Birkdale in 2017 (above). Neither is focused on the past this week.

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — Anniversaries.

They mean a lot to some and little to others.

For Scottie Scheffler, his win at the British Open a year ago at Royal Portrush means little when it comes to defending that title this week at Royal Birkdale.

"I'm not really a good reflector, I'm really not," Scheffler said last week when asked about his Open victory, which gave him the third leg of the career Grand Slam. "I don't really sit around too much and think about the past, to be honest with you. I feel like I'm in the middle of my career, and probably the end of my career is more a time to reflect.

"Right now, I'm just focused on what I need to do, and maybe I should sit and enjoy things more, but that's just not my nature."

Jordan Spieth won the Claret Jug the last time the Open was played at Birkdale, in 2017. Fair or unfair, that feels like the last significant moment of his career. Spieth has won just twice since that memorable final round — the 2021 Valero and the 2022 Heritage. But he'll always have Birkdale.

"A lot of my most fond memories of that, especially the final round," Spieth said recently. "It's a great golf course, an aerial golf course, one of the hardest venues we play in an Open."

Spieth said he joked with Scheffler recently, asking him, "Well, are you the defending champ or am I the defending champ next week?"

"He was like, 'No, it's you,'" Spieth said. "I was like, 'No, no, no, you don't get to do that. It's you.'"

Scheffler isn't the sentimental type — at least not publicly. He did offer up some tidbits about his appreciation of the Claret Jug, and how he doesn't want to give it back — which is the custom for the defending champion whenever he first arrives onto the property.

"I was surprised how much I enjoyed the Claret Jug," Scheffler said. "It will be very tough to hand it back on Tuesday next week, but I'll be fighting like heck to get it back on Sunday."

Justin Rose, a native son of England, has never won the Claret Jug, even though it looked like he might go on to win more than one based on his Open debut in 1998 at Birkdale.

He was a 17-year-old amateur in that '98 Open, which was won by Mark O'Meara in a playoff, and Rose delivered a signature moment when he holed out a 50-yard chip on the 72nd hole to finish tied for fourth.

Rose would turn professional the next day and famously miss the cut in his first 21 professional tournaments — something that would break the will of many players. But not Rose, who's gone on to win 13 times on the PGA Tour, including the 2013 U.S. Open, capture an Olympic gold medal and earn some $76 million in a brilliant career that's still thriving at age 45.

Rose later recalled the "innocence and freedom" he had in '98 at age 17. He later reflected on that burst onto the international golf scene, which was marred by his difficult start as a professional.

"That shot created a lot of pressure for me," Rose said, referring to the Birkdale hole-out on his final shot as an amateur. "I'm grateful that I feel like I've done a good job living up to that moment."

When you speak to Scheffler, he doesn't seem to be concerned about what he will be remembered for. He remains locked into the present, rather than dwelling on or even reveling in the past.

This has been a weird year for Scheffler, who won 13 times in 2024 and '25, but has only one victory this year, at the American Express back in January. That has drawn many questions about what's wrong with him, which is something that clearly annoys Scheffler.

"How would I assess my season?" Scheffler said, repeating a reporter's question at last week's Scottish Open. "I feel like I get that question every single week. I haven't had a good answer yet. I'll try again. I think I've been really close to winning some tournaments, and that can be frustrating."

Outside of the one win, Scheffler has eight top-five finishes this year, including four runner-up results.

"There's always tournaments I feel like I should have won and I didn't," he said. "That's just part of the game. You've got to ride with it, kind of the highs and lows."

Scheffler then referred back to the deep meaning-of-life thoughts he shared in the interview room after winning the Open last year, essentially about how winning golf tournaments doesn't define his life.

"Like I said last year at the Open: It's not a satisfying venture playing professional golf," he said. "So, try to take the good with the bad."

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Jersey golfer has gone Gotterup, up & away

Mark Cannizzaro

SOUTHPORT, England — It was a year ago when Chris Gotterup officially introduced himself to the golf world.

He did so in a big way.

Staring down Rory McIlroy in the final round of a PGA Tour signature event close to McIlroy's home roots — the Scottish Open — will do that for a young (26 years old) up-and-coming player who hadn't been a regular on the international stage.

Jersey proud (seriously) and Jersey strong (literally), the burly, unafraid and unaffected Gotterup — a product of Little Silver, NJ, Rumson Country Club, Rutgers and Oklahoma — won at the Renaissance Club on the East Lothian coast of Scotland last July and followed that up by nearly winning the British Open the next week, tying for third.

That was Gotterup's arrival to the big time.

And here's the thing ... actually *two* things:

● Gotterup hasn't stopped. His five wins since May 2024 is the same as McIlroy, the No. 2 ranked player in the world who completed the career Grand Slam in that span. Only Scottie Scheffler, with 10 wins in that period, has more.

● Gotterup hasn't changed. He's the same Jersey Shore kid he's always been. Chill and unaffected.

That makes him a player to watch at this week's British Open at Royal Birkdale.

Jason Birnbaum, the director of golf at Manhattan Woods, has been Gotterup's swing coach since he was age 13 Gotterup's father, Morten, cold-called him when he was working at Alpine Country Club to ask if he'd take a look at his son's swing.

When I asked Birnbaum this week what he's learned most about Gotterup in these past two years of success, he said, "I'd say it's probably just the handling of success, handling of the big moments, handling of the attention. Those are things I didn't know what to expect. Nobody could if you've never gone through it.

"He's 26 years old, has an amazing head on his shoulders, but when you have success like that and everybody wants a piece of you, pulling you in all directions ... who knows how that's going to affect someone. And it hasn't affected him. It's been a joy to watch him stay the same."

Birnbaum reveled in a call he received from Gotterup the night before the final round at the John Deere two weeks ago.

"It feels close, but I'm just off a little bit, things feel a little off," Gotterup told Birnbaum.

"And then the next day he shoots 62 and wins on the PGA Tour," Birnbaum marveled.

Gotterup won with his younger brother, Patrick, on the bag for him, with his regular caddie, Brady Stockton, taking time off to be with his wife, who's expecting a baby.

"My conversation with Patrick was hilarious," Birnbaum recalled. "While I was talking to Chris that night, Patrick and I had a text chain going. I was like, 'He's saying he doesn't feel great, what do you think?'

"Then the next day, after he won, Patrick said, 'I just re-read our text chain and I'm dying laughing.'"

You wouldn't have blamed Gotterup for falling into some frustration after winning twice early in the season then going 13 tournaments without a victory before the John Deere. With the bar he'd set with the run of early wins, it's easy to get frustrated when the wins stop.

"He's in some uncharted territory, so you're never quite sure how he's going to handle it, and he's done a great job with it," Birnbaum said. "Even though the standard and expectation level is higher now given what he did earlier in the year, the best part of his game — aside from his distance — is how even-keeled and simple-minded he is.

"He wasn't frustrated at all. He's realistic. He knows how hard golf is, and how difficult it is to maintain the standard he set early in the year, and he doesn't have false expectations. He knows he's not going to win or finish in the top five every week."

When Gotterup arrived in Scotland last year, he was ranked 158th in the world. He's now No. 7.

"My personal life has not changed a whole lot," Gotterup said last week. "Everything's kind of still the same. I do the same stuff that I did before and I don't change that much, hopefully.

"But golf-wise, it's changed a lot. Having four wins since then is crazy."

Gotterup conceded that after his first career win at the 2024 Myrtle Beach Classic, "I was like, 'Alright, I won, this is going to be easy.' And it was not easy."

Before the Scottish Open last week, a reporter asked Gotterup if he thought he was "over his skis" with success coming so rapidly.

"I don't know about over my skis, but there have definitely been moments where I'm like, 'Wow, this is kind of crazy,'" he said. "My whole career has been proving myself to myself. I know what I'm capable of, and these last couple months/years have been rewarding. But also once you kind of get a taste of it, you want more and more."

Maybe more will come this week at Birkdale. A first career major championship. The next step to a career that's taken off like a rocket ship.

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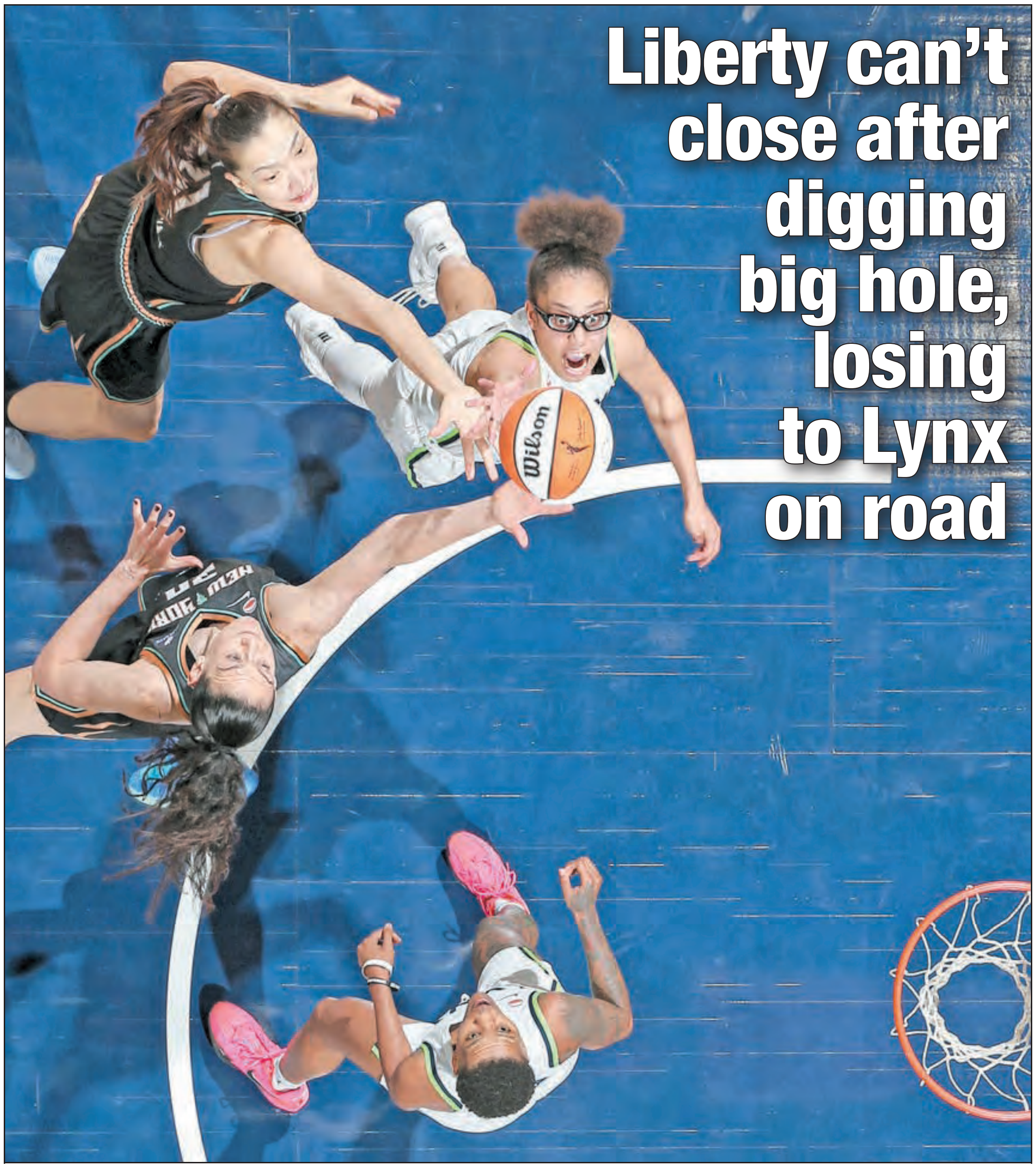
Chris Gotterup

Getty Images

IN TOO DEEP

Liberty can't close after digging big hole, losing to Lynx on road

By MADELINE KENNEY



BOARD ROOM: Breanna Stewart and the Lynx's Olivia Miles battle for a rebound in the Liberty's 90-85 loss in Minneapolis after coming back from a big deficit.

Getty Images

MINNEAPOLIS — The Liberty and Lynx sure know how to deliver cinema.

Every time these rivals square off, the stakes feel higher, and Saturday's matinee was no different.

They exchanged baskets and went on runs. Blood was drawn. Technical fouls were handed out.

LYNX	**90**	**Boxscore Page 61**
LIBERTY	**85**	

The Liberty, led by Sabrina Ionescu, mounted a thrilling third-quarter comeback, but they couldn't hold on, falling to the Lynx 90-85.

Leonie Fiebich said last week it's "personal" whenever the Lynx and Liberty meet. Jonquel Jones wouldn't go as far as to say that, but she did confirm "you definitely get up to play them."

"It's one of those teams that you definitely have marked off on your calendar," Jones said. "That's one of those teams that you measure yourself against and that you definitely want to show up and play your best against."

The Lynx might still be waiting for Napheesa Collier to make her season debut but they've cemented themselves as one of the league's best teams, improving to 17-6 with Saturday's win. Meanwhile, the Liberty, playing without Fiebich (left foot soreness) and Satou Sabally (concussion protocol), dropped to 13-10 and are in seventh place as the All-Star break draws near.

There's no reason to panic at this point, of course. Various injuries have resulted in first-year coach Chris DeMarco playing musical chairs with his lineups all season and prevented the team from building chemistry and establishing a true identity.

And Ionescu said the team isn't measuring its performances by wins and losses.

"It's always been, personally, are you doing your absolute best every single time you step out on the floor?" Ionescu said. "And it doesn't mean every year you don't win, it's a failure. ... Obviously we want to win every single time we step out on the floor but it's a process and we didn't win or lose a championship in today's game."

The Lynx looked well in control of Saturday's game near the midway point of the third quarter.

They led by 15 and had their home crowd buzzing. It looked like they were going to sail to a comfortable win against the short-handed Liberty.

But Ionescu had other plans.

She scored 19 of her 25 points in the third quarter, shooting 7-for-10 from the field.

The Liberty trailed by 15 with less than five minutes left in the third. But the game's momentum flipped in favor of the Liberty.

Ionescu stayed hot. Marine Johannes hit a pair of timely 3s. The Liberty's defense stalled the Lynx's offense.

The Libs went on a 21-5 run to close the quarter and take a one-point lead.

The Lynx punched back in the fourth. They generated plenty of second-chance opportunities and took 12 trips to the free-throw line.

The Liberty started to lose the battle. Han Xu received her first career technical foul for bouncing the ball in frustration. Moments later, DeMarco got a technical foul for barking at the refs.

Kayla McBride scored 14 of her 25 points in the final 10 minutes.

Olivia Miles delivered the final blow, sealing the Lynx's win with a pair of free throws to cap a 23-point, five-rebound and four-assist day.

The Liberty are 5-5 in the clutch, which is the last five minutes of the fourth quarter or overtime when the score is within five points.

Overall, Jones thought the Liberty did a lot of things well. They cut down their turnovers in the second half and turned seven Lynx turnovers into 20 points.

But Saturday was yet another lesson.

"We just have to stop digging ourselves these very big, very deep holes that we have to get out of," Jones said. "If we could stop doing that and mitigate that and then put our second half together that we've been doing, we'll be great."

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$tewie's 3-point motivation paying off

By MADELINE KENNEY

MINNEAPOLIS — Three weeks ago, Breanna Stewart hit a breaking point.

She had enough of her lousy 3-point percentage after shooting 17.6 percent from deep across the first 17 games. She told Liberty director of player development Andrew Wade to start fining her every time a 3-point attempt fell short.

Since then, Stewart has shot 7-for-16 from beyond the arc in her last five games and her pockets have stayed heavy.

LIBERTY NOTES

She opened Saturday's game against the Lynx with a 3 in transition. Then, she drained another triple when Sabrina Ionescu found her at the top of the key.

She went 2-for-3 from deep on the day.

After the loss, Stewart wanted a fist bump when her increased efficiency beyond the arc was brought up. She knew it was only a matter of time before her shot fell.

"Listen, I think that the work that I put in, it's gonna show," Stewart told The Post. "You never know when but kind of continuing to make sure that Drew and I are in the gym, but also mindset and mentality to want to be aggressive, want to shoot the ones I shot today and yeah, being intentional, focusing on the things of, like, not wanting to be short."

➤ Rebounding continued to be an issue for the Liberty.

Six of the Lynx's 15 offensive boards were snatched in the fourth quarter, partially the reason the game swung in Minnesota's favor.

Marine Johannes said rebounding is an effort thing. **Jonquel Jones** said it's about hitting bodies.

Either way, Stewart said it's a problem that needs to be addressed.

"It's really personal, knowing who's gonna crash and who you have to box out," she said. "That's the only downfall to our zone is it's really hard to find a body when you're matched up to space. ... But it's a hurdle that we have and it's something that we have to kind of get over the hump."

The Liberty concede 9.2 offensive boards per game, the seventh most in the league.

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NICKEL'S WORTH

Knicks 2nd-round pick proves his mettle with 3-point clinic

By STEFAN BONDY

LAS VEGAS — For obvious reasons, Tyler Nickel prefers to wear No. 5.

But that uniform was taken by Knicks guard Jose Alvarado. So Nickel settled for double-nickel.

"T-Nick is my nickname, but a lot of people call me T-5," said Nickel, the No. 47 overall pick in last month's draft. "So [No.] 5 has been me. So when [No.] 55 was available, I was like, 'OK, I can't get [No.] 5, so [No.] 55 is cool.' "

If Nickel carves out an NBA career, he'll be defined by a different digit — 3.

As the second-round pick demonstrated in his first two summer league games, his greatest asset is his proficiency from beyond the arc. Nickel dropped six treys on 10 attempts Friday against the Nets, the lone positive in a blowout defeat that featured ugly performances from summer league vets Mohamed Diawara, Pacôme Dadiet and Dillon Jones. On Saturday, Nickel again was the Knicks' leading scorer with 16 points on 6-for-14 shooting in 30 minutes in their ugly 70-49 loss to the Spurs.

"I definitely feel like I have some comparisons in the league. I feel like I'm a mix of some different guys: my size, my strength, my shooting ability," Nickel said. "I feel really comfortable shooting off the move, so like [Detroit's] Duncan Robinson, [Cleveland's] Max Strus, [Boston's] Sam Hauser. But then I have my own type of way of being. So it's kind of a mix of a lot of people but also myself."

All those players, including Nickel, have two things in common: They're catch-and-shoot specialists, and they're white.

"Hey, listen," the 22-year-old Vanderbilt product laughed when told he was making just white-player comparisons. "They got roles in the league."

Nickel, who is from Virginia and talks with a Southern twang, will struggle to stay on an NBA court if he can't competently defend. It's considered his weakness, but the 6-foot-7 Nickel has the size to make it work with enough effort. According to TJ Saint, coach of the Knicks' summer league team, Nickel committed to defense during minicamp last week.

"He's been shooting all right. His defense has actually been impressive in the camp," Saint said. "When we were in the airport the other day, I went over to talk to him, and he was studying our playbook, so I already like where he's at, getting ahead of the game."

Despite his promise, Nickel is unlikely to command a standard contract for the defending champs. He's a candidate for a two-way deal, though, and that should all be sorted out during training camp in late September into October.

Nickel's 18-point game against the Nets drew the attention of Josh Hart, who tweeted during the action, "[No.] 55 got a chop," in reference to the forward's shooting stroke.

As Kevin McCullar Jr. and especially Diawara demonstrated last season, there always could be unexpected opportunities for young players.

In the meantime, Nickel's wearing two 5s in Vegas and taking 3s.

"I heard my name called [at the draft], and seeing it being the Knicks, I was super excited," Nickel said. "Obviously, a championship organization. I thought it was perfect; a perfect situation to see what winning is all about. The standard that they hold everybody to in the program, I feel like it's perfect for me to be on."

Vegas intel

Everybody is awaiting The Decision 2.0 from LeBron James — including another future Hall of Famer on the market.

According to a league source, Russell Westbrook is a candidate to join the Heat but not if LeBron signs in Miami.

Westbrook, 37, is a diminished version of his former MVP self but still averaged 15.2 points over 64 games last season with the Kings.

James, meanwhile, is sifting through his options in free agency. Miami, Cleveland and Philadelphia are considered the front-runners.

Westbrook and James were teammates with the Lakers for 1 ½ seasons and struggled, winning just 33 games and falling to 11th in the West in 2021-22.

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FOLLOWING THROUGH: Tyler Nickel, wearing the No. 55 "double nickel" instead of his preferred No. 5, torched the Nets in Friday's summer league game with six 3s. Getty Images

DEAL WITH IT: Jack Kayil, picked in last month's draft, said his goal is to play in the NBA with the Knicks but had his summer debut delayed amid a contract dispute in Europe. Getty Images

No. 39 selection hopes NBA career won't be delayed

By STEFAN BONDY

LAS VEGAS — Jack Kayil, the Knicks draft pick from Germany, made his desire clear Saturday: He doesn't want to be stashed overseas.

"My goal is to play in the NBA," the 20-year-old point guard said after his summer league debut in an ugly 70-49 loss to the Spurs. "That's why I went into the draft."

Kayil was picked 39th overall last month but took a while to join the Knicks amid reports of a contract dispute with his team in Berlin. On the contract problems, Kayil was mum — "there were things going on that I don't want to get into," he said — but it's clear he wants to stay with the Knicks.

"It's not my decision, so I'm just trying to show myself in the best way, and it is what it is," he said, adding later, "I'm super happy I also got drafted, and we'll see what happens in the next days, weeks, whatever."

If he joins the NBA next season, Kayil is a candidate for a two-way contract and perhaps development in the G-League. He showed playmaking potential Saturday, but overall the Knicks' offense was atrocious — similar to Friday's loss to the Nets.

Kayil, who didn't play Friday, finished with 12 points, five rebounds and three assists on 5-for-14 shooting in 21 minutes. He and fellow rookie Tyler Nickel were the only offensive threats for New York, with Mohamed Diawara going scoreless in another dud.

"It's difficult to say [what the differences are from the German league]," Kayil said. "It's only one game. For me, it still feels like basketball, and [I] try to play the right way. And everywhere, it's kind of same. It's obviously different players to play against and a different kind of speed and everything. But I'm used to different systems, so it wasn't difficult to adapt to that. So for me, it wasn't that big of a difference."

TJ Saint, the Knicks' summer league coach, was complimentary.

"Really liked him. Started watching him on film after the draft," Saint said. "Thought he could get in the paint. Thought he had a quick burst."

Nets make deal with 3-and-D veteran Ellis

KEY ACQUISITION: Keon Ellis, who split last season with the Kings and Cavaliers, agreed to a two-year contract worth $18 million to join the Nets. Getty Images

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — For Keon Ellis, it was about wanting to be where he's wanted.

Getting to join a Nets team in desperate need of his defense, and reunite with coach Jordi Fernández, was the perfect free agent situation.

"From what I heard, he was pulling for me really hard," said Ellis, who played two years in Sacramento when Fernández was the Kings' associate head coach. "And I know the way he coaches. He's very passionate. He's about the right things. He wants to win. So, the familiarity right there was definitely good."

The Nets and Ellis agreed to a two-year, $18 million contract, with a full mutual option that either side can opt into.

Considering the familiarity between the player and coach, and how the Nets need his 3-and-D profile, it's hard to see the fit not working out.

"With how much they were offering, that just speaks to how much the team wants you as well. So, that. And then obviously, you've got some guys on the staff that you've been with before, so you know the ropes a little," Ellis said. "And then the opportunity here as well. When you combine all those things, they just lined up."

Point-of-attack defenders who can actually shoot — prototypical 3-and-D types — are pricey in the NBA, but Ellis may provide some of that archetype.

Per 100 possessions last season — split between the Kings and Cavaliers — Ellis ranked in the 93rd percentile in steals (2.7), in the 95th percentile in blocks (1.5) and the 96th percentile in both turnovers forced (1.6) and deflections (6.4).

His stop percentile of 4.4 ranked in the 98th percentile.

"It's just about the effort. I go out there and I just try to make it tough on guys," Ellis said. "You're playing against the best players in the world. They're gonna score; they're gonna get to their spots. You're gonna have bad defensive games [and] good defensive games. But the mindset of every night trying to do the right things, be in the right spots and just attack the game plan. That'll help everyone accomplish the goal.

"I'm not the greatest defender ever, but with team defense, everyone's on the same page, that helps everyone a little bit better. Just me coming in, I'm more of a lead by example kind of guy. So I think just me going in and playing hard, that's what motivates the next guy to go just as hard."

Two seasons ago, Ellis was even better. He was the only player in the league to rank in the top 10 in both steals (1.5) and 3-point percentage (.433).

But he backslid somewhat this past campaign. After averaging 24 minutes in the regular season and notching a plus-4.5 net rating, Ellis struggled in the postseason. He averaged just seven minutes and recorded a minus-15.9 net rating in 12 appearances for Cleveland.

Still, playoff woes are a luxury for the rebuilding Nets, a long way from those sorts of worries. Considering how defensively challenged they were — and how badly Drake Powell, their only guard who plays tough point-of-attack defense, has been struggling on offense in summer league play so far — it's hard to see Ellis not playing a huge role.

Ellis is confident he can get back to his 3-and-D form of two years ago.

"Just the consistency and an established role. A lot of things were up and down and moving parts, and you just never really knew what was going on," Ellis said. "The consistency really helped with that, that year. You knew what was going on. There weren't too many moving parts. So, that was just the biggest thing."

Ellis is looking forward to getting settled in Brooklyn — even if he's suffering from sticker shock.

"Oh, my God. Trying to find a house, it's tough," Ellis laughed. "I have to sacrifice something, some space, the prices, it's a lot. But I'm definitely excited to be able to kind of just walk around the city and hit different spots and all the restaurants. I hear there's a lot of good food and a lot of things to do. So I'm definitely excited to see about that, but I'll definitely be losing some square footage."

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More Nets / Page 60

ARGENTINA TURNER

Alvarez breaks tie in 112th minute to send Messi & Co. to semifinals

By MICHAEL DUARTE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Argentina always finds a way to escape.

The defending champions advanced to the World Cup semifinals after yet another controversial VAR red card decision that favored La Albiceleste when Breel Embolo was sent off for diving after his second yellow card.

Call it fortunate. Call it controversial. Just don't call Argentina eliminated.

Julián Alvarez unleashed one of the finest goals of the World Cup in the 112th minute of extra time Saturday night, blasting a right-footed rocket from outside the left edge of the penalty area that screamed into the far corner and finally broke Switzerland's resistance. Lautaro Martínez added another off a rebound minutes later, sending Argentina to a 3-1 victory before 69,045 fans at Arrowhead Stadium.

ARGENTINA 3
SWITZERLAND 1
Extra time
Quarterfinals

It was another knockout escape that sent Argentina into a seventh World Cup semifinal while leaving Switzerland wondering how a match it controlled for long stretches slipped away.

"I will talk about the red card later. I would like to praise my entire team. We competed against the reigning champions in the quarterfinal. We came back after conceding a goal. Then after the equalizer the momentum was on our side. We dominated and decided the match," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said. "However, we were punished on the red card because of a rule that is completely unacceptable. I don't understand. It's very painful that we were eliminated that way. In my opinion, our team is the real heroes. I'm very proud of them.

"The referee makes the wrong decision. That is a situation that occurs many times in this game. It was a harmless foul even if it was a foul. They will protect their referee, but he destroyed our game today and it really hurts a lot. Unfortunately, now we are out of this tournament."

Nothing has come easily for Lionel Scaloni's side since the tournament reached the knockout rounds. The swagger that defined Argentina's group-stage dominance has been replaced by survival, grit and, depending on whom you ask, a little help from the replay booth.

The atmosphere felt more like Buenos Aires than Kansas City. Arrowhead Stadium became a sea of baby blue and white, with only scattered pockets of Swiss red breaking through the overwhelming Argentine support. It was easily a 90 percent Argentina crowd, and every tackle, every touch from Lionel Messi generated a roar that rolled through the stadium like thunder.

Messi rewarded those supporters almost immediately.

After Nico Elvedi deflected his first corner behind the goal, the Argentine captain calmly crossed to the opposite flag and delivered another dangerous outswinging service. Alexis Mac Allister timed his run perfectly, climbed over Manuel Akanji and steered a clinical header beyond Gregor Kobel from the edge of the six-yard box to give Argentina a 1-0 lead in the 10th minute.

The assist was Messi's 10th goal contribution of the tournament, leaving him one behind France star Kylian Mbappé in the race for the World Cup lead.

His teammates have repeatedly said they refuse to let this become the final World Cup match of Messi's legendary career. On nights like this, that belief seems to fuel every desperate clearance and every extra sprint.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, the Rossocrociati were the quicker, more energetic side to start the second half, pressing high and forcing Argentina into uncomfortable moments. They committed 18 fouls, battled for every loose ball and gradually tilted the match in their favor.

Finally, in the 67th minute, Switzerland found its breakthrough.

Dan Ndoye combined beautifully with Ricardo Rodríguez on the edge of the penalty area before darting toward the byline and firing a low right-footed shot through Emiliano Martínez's legs and into the far corner from an impossible angle. It was a deserved equalizer for a Swiss side that had spent nearly 20 minutes knocking relentlessly on Argentina's door.

Then came the sequence that will define this quarterfinal.

Leandro Paredes appeared to clip Embolo near midfield, and Portuguese referee João Pinheiro immediately reached for a yellow card. But VAR had other ideas.

Replays showed Paredes never actually made contact. Instead of cautioning the Argentine midfielder, Pinheiro overturned the decision and booked Embolo for diving. Because it was Embolo's second yellow card, Switzerland's striker was shown a red card and sent off.

In an instant, everything changed.

Switzerland's momentum vanished. A team that had looked capable of finding a winner suddenly spent the final stages of regulation and virtually all of extra time defending with 10 men. The Swiss parked nearly every player inside their own penalty area, building a defensive wall and daring Argentina to solve the puzzle.

Wave after wave of Argentine attacks crashed against that red barricade.

Until Alvarez finally found the answer.

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SIMPLY THE BEST: Julián Alvarez celebrates his tiebreaking blast in extra time Saturday night to put Argentina ahead of Switzerland. Lautaro Martínez added an insurance goal as Lionel Messi (inset) & Co. advance to Wednesday's semifinal match against England in Atlanta. Getty Images (2)

Local MLS clubs hope to cash in on W. Cup hype

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

While U.S. soccer fans and federation executives debate where the program and sport stand in the wake of the United States' Round of 16 exit in the World Cup, another question is starting to come to the forefront as the event moves closer to its conclusion.

How does Major League Soccer — and more specifically here in the Big Apple, Red Bull New York and New York City FC — capitalize on the momentum the Cup has brought to the sport? It's a question that executives from both clubs are hoping they have the right answer to coming out of the tournament, with soccer's relevancy in the United States at an all-time high, hosting the World Cup for the first time since 1994.

"We think it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to grow the game, grow the fan base for New York City FC and I think the biggest moment for soccer in the U.S. since 1994," NYCFC CEO Brad Sims told The Post.

Both the Red Bulls and NYCFC have played major roles in local fan activities during the Cup, with NYCFC setting up shop at the USTA National Tennis Center to introduce soccer fans to the club's future home in Willets Point. The Red Bulls' stadium in Harrison, N.J., has been used as the official Jersey fan hub running through the length of the tournament.

Executives from both clubs said being involved with World Cup fan zones opened them up to thousands of potential fans. And as Katie Nahoum, the Red Bulls chief marketing officer, looks at her club's strategy post-World Cup, she said it is a three-pronged approach.

"We want to inspire current and new fans, we want to engage them, and then the one that was the most important for us was to invite them back, invite them to Sports Illustrated Stadium," she told The Post.

And one key component of that, according to Nahoum, has been providing free tickets to individuals through a program dubbed "First Match on Us." It allows new fans to take in a Red Bulls match for free in order to hook them on the experience.

NYCFC is running a similar program that allows first-time fans to come out to a match for free.

According to data provided to The Post, the Red Bulls have allocated 5,000 tickets for the "First Match on Us" program and have received "hundreds" of applications since the program launched. NYCFC did not immediately provide data regarding the reception to their offer, but the club has seen thousands of people engage with their activations and ticketing offer during watch parties in the area.

It would seem the two clubs have a market among those who have taken an interest in the World Cup this summer. Several fans who The Post spoke with at recent fan watch parties indicated that they would be inclined to check out the local MLS clubs.

One fan, who identified himself as John W., said he would be interested in attending an NYCFC match after taking in the World Cup excitement at the Tennis Center — specifically noting the club's future home, Etihad Park, as another driving factor.

Queens resident Arling Garcia, who is already a fan of Barcelona and Manchester City, said after the World Cup that she would be interested in checking out one of the local MLS clubs.

"I think they need more of everybody to get more exposure to what soccer is, especially here in New York," she said. "You don't see it that much up here, but I think that's why we need more soccer experiences for everybody."

NYCFC will have the benefit of having three players who competed in the World Cup on their roster once the MLS season resumes in mid-July following the World Cup break. Goalkeeper Matt Freese was the U.S. starter, and Kai Trewin and Aiden O'Neill represented Australia during the tournament.

And for Sims, the most exciting thing is that soccer "will be top of mind to people."

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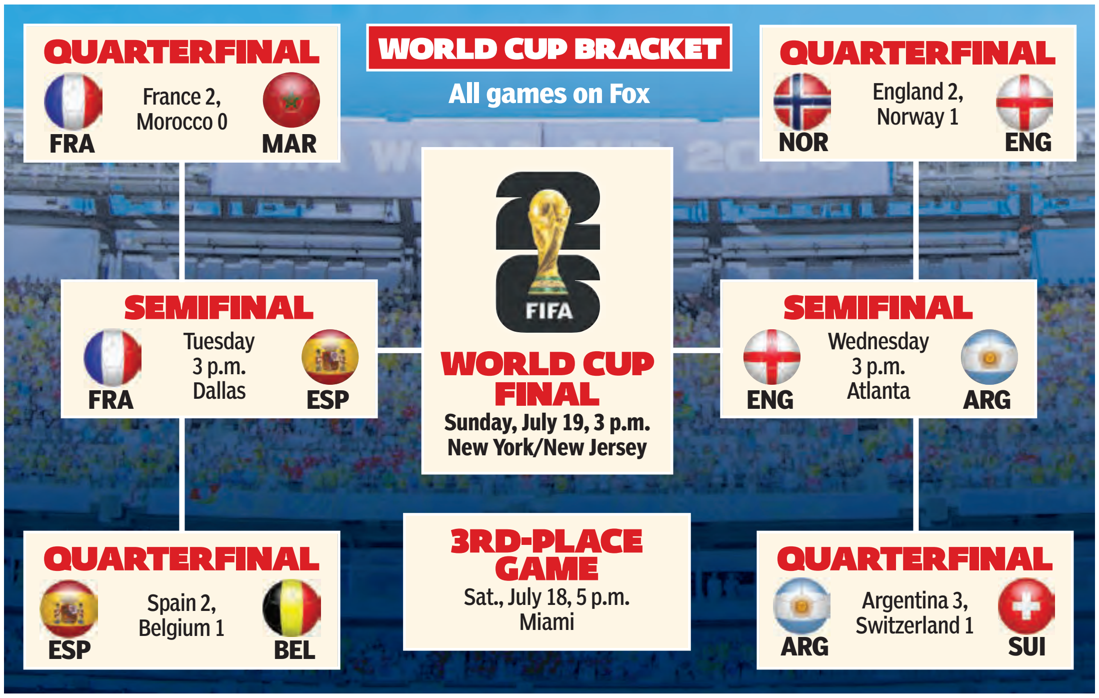

WORLD CUP BRACKET

All games on Fox

QUARTERFINAL
FRA France 2, Morocco 0 MAR

QUARTERFINAL
NOR England 2, Norway 1 ENG

SEMIFINAL
FRA Tuesday 3 p.m. Dallas ESP

SEMIFINAL
ENG Wednesday 3 p.m. Atlanta ARG

WORLD CUP FINAL
Sunday, July 19, 3 p.m.
New York/New Jersey

3RD-PLACE GAME
Sat., July 18, 5 p.m.
Miami

QUARTERFINAL
ESP Spain 2, Belgium 1 BEL

QUARTERFINAL
ARG Argentina 3, Switzerland 1 SUI

HEY JUDE!!!!

Bellingham's two goals give England juice to vault Norway into semis

By ETHAN SEARS

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — How silly does the short-lived debate over whether Jude Bellingham should be on England's roster seem now?

The chances of Bellingham not making it, realistically, were always close to zero, barring injury. The chances of anyone ever saying such things again are zero.

ENGLAND	**2**	**Extra time** **Quarterfinals**
NORWAY	**1**	

Amid a standout month, Bellingham donned his cape and produced the night of his life. The 23-year-old had his second brace in as many games, one of them the extra-time winner to send England to a 2-1 victory over Norway and into the World Cup semifinal, where it will face Argentina

"Probably a bit beyond [my wildest dreams], to be honest," Bellingham said. "I think you know I go to bed at night dreaming about games like that."

A week after defeating the altitude and the occasion of Mexico at the Azteca, England got past Erling Haaland and the humidity in Miami. This time, it took extra time and a match nearly as nervy as the last to find a winner.

It came from Bellingham all of three minutes into extra time, the 23-year-old completing his brace by pouncing on Morgan Rogers' shot that Ørjan Nyland couldn't keep in his arms. So early into 30 minutes of extra time, the situation then called for England to hang on for dear life as Norway threw numbers forward.

Instead, Norway seemed out of gas. Haaland, who had such an excellent tournament, made way at halftime of extra time for Jørgen Strand Larsen, having made little discernible impact on the match. England finally signaled it was ready to hunker down in the final 10 minutes, taking Bellingham off for Dan Burn.

"It was not a tough decision to take him out," Norway coach Ståle Solbakken said, adding Haaland had a dead leg in the second half. "Because he was finished. And maybe I should have taken him out 10 minutes before."

Even then, Norway couldn't come up with convincing chances. Truth be told, even in their more dominant stretches, Norway rarely tested Jordan Pickford; even Andreas Schjelderup's goal that opened the scoring in the 36th minute appeared to be intended as a cross. The booming renditions of "Wonderwall" and "Hey Jude" that followed the final whistle could be heard outside the stadium word for word.

England will face either Argentina or Switzerland in Atlanta on Wednesday for the chance to reach its first final since 1966.

For so much of this evening, England didn't have it. The Three Lions were second best, at least after the first 25 minutes where they owned the ball and did nothing with it. Bellingham, though, has the sort of big-game aura that England has often lacked in the long decades since its last World Cup victory.

Tuchel's most-debated selections to start the game — Ezri Konsa at right back, Noni Madueke at right wing — were both off the field by the end of 90 minutes. Madueke had made way at halftime for Bukayo Saka; Konsa for Rogers late in regulation, allowing Djed Spence to play left back, with Reece James and Eberechi Eze having entered as well.

Rogers helped set up the winner, and all of the substitutions acquitted themselves well, though Eze and Saka took time to play their way into the match. Even Tuchel himself, though, said afterward that he wanted more from his team. This was less about quality and more about guile.

"I feel so connected to this team," Tuchel said. "They just do whatever it takes to take the next step. They just refuse to lose."

There were so many missed opportunities for Norway. Alexander Sørloth's breakaway in which he inexplicably didn't pass to Haaland. Torbjørn Heggem's goal that was wiped off for a foul. David Møller Wolfe's shot that hit the crossbar from mere feet away.

The Norwegians had grounds to be upset, too, about the ball seeming to hit the overhead camera cable in the lead-up to Bellingham's 1-1 goal. FIFA claimed the chip in the ball didn't register that it had hit anything, and therefore there was no reason to rule the goal out.

"I hope we can think about and talk about other things," Solbakken said. "That's my hope. I hope that [the wire] will not be the story about this team. It shouldn't be."

That is what will make this so painful for Norway, underdogs as they were. For England, it only strengthens the feeling that, 60 years on from the triumph of 1966, this can be their year for another.

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Gritty Brits have taken sad song & made it better

BELL' OF THE BALL: Jude Bellingham celebrates with fans after scoring two goals in England's 2-1 win over Norway in the World Cup quarterfinal in sweltering Miami on Saturday. Getty Images

Ethan Sears

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Any semblance of the usual discourse around an England team, which even in the national team's best moments so often veers toward melodrama and has a default state of over-the-top, seems to have evaporated into the Miami heat.

If that wasn't true after England's 3-2 win over Mexico in Mexico City's altitude, it certainly is now, after the Three Lions gutted out an extra-time 2-1 win over Norway here Saturday night.

England manager Thomas Tuchel isn't wrong to say his team still has more to go. It was second-best for long stretches of Saturday, lucky to escape Congo in the Round of 32 and put in a terrible performance in a 0-0 draw against Ghana in the group stage.

What it has, though — and what has changed the conversation around this team — is guile.

"Sometimes you've gotta go in the trenches," goalkeeper Jordan Pickford said. "You've gotta be resilient and you've got to roll up your sleeves as a team. And that's what we've got. We've got our togetherness, our team spirit and the commitment we drive ourselves. We'll never say never."

A love-hate relationship between a country and its national team isn't on its own strange; the USMNT has found out this week that even here, the venom that can follow a World Cup disappointment can be outright galling. England's is unique, though, for its particularly British brand of angst that underpins the conversation at all times.

When the national team seemed to perennially disappoint — Frank Lampard's non-goal and a Round of 16 exit to Germany in Bloemfontein in 2010; the epic group-stage crashout in 2014; the Iceland defeat in Euro 2016 that marked a generational low point — it was all sort of amusing to witness as an outsider. More recently, when England has contended for the trophy at every major competition since 2018, reaching a World Cup semifinal and quarterfinal with two European final losses in between, it seemed to mystify.

Under Gareth Southgate, England was criticized for conservatism, and its losses on the doorstep of glory seemed to prevent any true enjoyment of those campaigns.

That is not the case this time. England's defensive efforts that followed Jarell Quansah's red card in Mexico, at altitude, in the most hostile crowd and inside a stadium that was the site of the country's greatest-ever World Cup trauma, made sure that almost no matter what, this year's competition will be remembered positively.

For 47 minutes including stoppage time, England repelled cross after cross. Dan Burn and John Stones, brought on as substitutes, seemed to get their heads on everything. It was almost Churchillian in its resilience. Ditto Saturday, when the efforts of Stones and Marc Guéhi left Erling Haaland without answer.

"My feedback is that the public loves this team," manager Thomas Tuchel said Friday before the quarterfinal. "And there's a lot of things to love. They see the spirit, the togetherness, they see players who give everything for that shirt.

"And I believe strongly that a country and children and football fans feel the energy that a team transmits. It transcends being in the stadium or being through the TV. I'm absolutely convinced that the public loves this team and feels the energy of this team."

At least since 1990, when Paul Gascoigne led the Three Lions to the semifinal only for it to lose on penalties, it's hard to remember another England team for which that was so unequivocally true.

The games that require digging deep like this, almost uniformly, have been the games England loses. Not anymore.

Tuchel's side is probably not the best team in this tournament when it comes to quality. That would go to France, or maybe Spain. The Three Lions might be underdogs in the semifinal as well, should they face Argentina.

And none of that may matter.

"I feel so connected to this team," Tuchel said. "They just do whatever it takes to take the next step. They just refuse to lose."

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Tying goal may be result of wire fraud

By ETHAN SEARS

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Norway coach Ståle Solbakken could have complained.

To the whole world, it appeared his team had been the victim of a call that should have wiped England's first goal off the board, as the ball had seemed to hit the overhead camera wire to give away possession.

"OK, it was a bit bizarre, the things that happened today, but that's also part of football," Solbakken said. "That's also part of why football is the best sport in the world, because things like that can happen. But yeah, we have to accept it. And I know it's tough now, it's tough for the players, it's tough for me. We don't have a good feeling now. But hopefully in a week when we look back, we have a much better feeling."

Bellingham, who tied the game 1-1 after the impromptu buildup that followed the ball hitting the wire, said, "I didn't see that," when asked about the moment.

FIFA, in a statement posted to X, said that the chip in the ball had not sensed any contact with the wire.

"The sensor in the Connected Ball showed no peak in the 'heartbeat of the ball' when in the air," the statement said, "and therefore no evidence that the ball touched the overhead wire and changed the movement of the ball."

The chip in the ball has already proven controversial, as it was used to rule out Croatia's tying goal in its Round of 32 match against Portugal. Then, the sensor allegedly showed the ball had hit a hair on a Croatian player's head, making the play offside.

"There's a chip in the ball [that] can tell you if a hair touches it, as we know since the Croatia-Portugal game," England manager Thomas Tuchel said. "They should be able to tell you if it happened. I'm not aware of it. I didn't see it."

Solbakken urged media not to focus on the controversy.

"We will talk about the wire until we are all dead," he said in Norwegian, through an interpreter. "I hope we can think about and talk about other things. That's my hope. I hope that will not be the story of this team. It shouldn't be."

➤ Bellingham was not happy with Tuchel's comments after the game, with the manager saying in a sideline interview he didn't like how the team had played.

"Maybe he doesn't know what it's like to play in these types of conditions against Erling Haaland, [Martin] Ødegaard, [Antonio] Nusa, [Alexander] Sørloth," Bellingham said. "That's not an easy team to play against. I think we tried to create a positive environment. We should continue that going into the final four. I can't speak highly enough of the lads. ... Sometimes you have to win dirty and we did that again tonight."

RAZOR'S EDGE

Mets take big chance with docked 1st pick on Arkansas reliever who hasn't pitched this year

NEW YORK METS
DRAFT COMBINE
USA
69

YA GOTTA RELIEVE: The Mets selected flamethrowing reliever Carson Wiggins with the No. 27 pick after losing 10 spots because they spent over the second luxury tax threshold last season. Getty Images (2)

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — On the first day of the draft in which there were four rounds of picks, the Mets' initial selection was docked 10 slots because of their aggressive spending, and they did not have a second-rounder or a compensatory pick because of their aggressive signing.

So the pressure was on to hit on the picks they did have, which began with a big swing — a flamethrower who has not thrown a competitive pitch in over a year — and included a third-round pick the Mets did not expect to still be on the board.

In their first real chance at rebuilding the farm system during a down season, the Mets used the No. 27 pick on Carson Wiggins, a 6-foot-5 righty from the University of Arkansas who underwent elbow surgery in May 2025, then selected Texas outfielder Aiden Robbins in the third round and Texas A&M lefty Shane Sdao in the fourth.

The most exciting profile belongs to Wiggins, who said he is "fully done with rehab" and "ready to go whenever." In Wiggins, the Mets drafted a college closer — one who barely pitched because of the surgery — and believe he can grow into not just a rotation piece but a "front-line" starter, a term Mets draft executives used three times in a brief Zoom call.

"We think he's going to be a really damn good pitcher, really front-line upside," said Kris Gross, the Mets VP of amateur and international scouting.

Wiggins himself said he "did not see this coming at all," and for good reason: He did not pitch with Arkansas this season and, assuming he signs, will have finished his collegiate career with just 14 innings pitched.

But within those 14 innings as a freshman last year, he reportedly touched 102 mph, struck out 20 and showed off a power fastball and slider that worked in the late innings for the Razorbacks.

And after those innings, he required surgery and did not make it back to the mound with Arkansas. The Mets watched him throw a bullpen session during the SEC Tournament, saw him again at the draft combine and had a long history with Wiggins, whom they scouted at his Oklahoma high school.

On the other side of surgery, Wiggins said he has been working on filling out his arsenal and is throwing a curveball and changeup, too.

Wiggins' brother, Jaxon, is the Cubs' top-ranked pitching prospect, and his Razorback staffmate, Hunter Dietz, was selected by the Yankees eight picks later.

"That is very fun for me," Wiggins said of Dietz. "I'm excited to see him out there."

The Mets did not have a second-round selection and lost a pick they had gained from Edwin Díaz landing with the Dodgers because they signed Bo Bichette, who had been given a qualifying offer that cost them their second- and fifth-highest selections.

So after No. 27, the Mets did not select again until No. 92, at which point Drew Toussaint, the club's director of amateur scouting, said they were "very surprised" Robbins was still available.

The outfielder from Pennsylvania who starred for two years at Seton Hall before emerging at Texas had been ranked as the No. 29 prospect in the class by MLB Pipeline.

"We think it's a blend bat that can hit and then hit for power as well," Toussaint said of Robbins, who posted a 1.122 OPS with 24 home runs in 60 games this season. "Athlete. Chance to play center field. So we're excited about that one."

Sdao missed all of 2025 because of Tommy John surgery and returned this year without sharpness, pitching to a 7.03 ERA as a swingman.

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Yankees also take Razorback after bump down

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — The Yankees are accustomed to not selecting in the top half (not since 1993) or even middle (no pick in the teens since 2017) of the first round of the MLB draft.

But landing early-round talent is only growing in difficulty, the club now getting used to selecting in slots kicked so far back that they are only technically first-rounders. For a second consecutive year, the Yankees' top pick was docked 10 slots because of their previous season's payroll.

So after sitting around for about 2 ½ hours as other clubs made their first selections — and the White Sox, Giants, Rays, Cardinals, Royals and Diamondbacks picked twice — the Yankees used the No. 35 pick to select lefty Hunter Dietz from the University of Arkansas.

"Hunter is right up our alley," Damon Oppenheimer, VP of domestic amateur scouting, said in a statement about the 6-foot-6 southpaw. "He has a big, left-handed arm with a deluxe fastball and a breaking ball that can be a wipeout pitch.

"We think he has a chance to have power stuff from the left side with swing-and-miss potential. He was able to showcase this against experienced hitters in the SEC while at Arkansas."

Dietz barely pitched in his first two seasons with the Razorbacks because of injury. But he broke out as a redshirt sophomore, pitching to a 3.57 ERA with 131 strikeouts in 85 ⅔ innings this season.

If Dietz's value had shot up, the Yankees' second-rounder's value had dipped. With the No. 66 pick overall, they selected another lefty, Sean Duncan, out of a British Columbia high school. The Vanderbilt commit became a recent victim of Tommy John surgery.

"We love Sean, we think he has a huge ceiling. He throws strikes and is ultra-competitive with a bit of a Cole Hamels feel to us," Oppenheimer said of the 6-foot-3 rehab project. "We have seen his fastball run up to 97 [mph] with life, a plus changeup and an above-average breaking ball that continues to improve."

The Yankees rounded out their first day with Brendan Brock — an athlete Oppenheimer compared to an amateur Jayson Werth because of his uncommon speed for a catcher, which allowed him to play the outfield, too, at Oklahoma, where he owned a .921 OPS with 28 steals in 65 games last season — and Paul Gutierrez-Contreras II, an outfielder who hit .346 with a 1.074 OPS at Cal State Fullerton last season.

The club's first two picks of enticing but flawed prospects make sense for a team that is looking to find value on the margins. Year after year, the Yankees are tasked with finding hidden gems because their success and, recently, their spending work against them in the draft.

➤ Hofstra pitcher Carlos Martinez — a two-time First Team All-CAA selection — was selected in the fourth round, No. 118 overall, by the Giants.

An All-PSAL selection at Flushing High School, Martinez was 6-3 this past season with a 3.30 ERA and 96 strikeouts in 76 ⅓ innings.

Luke Weaver

Huascar Brazobán

Robert Sabo (2)

PROVIDE RELIEF

Mets shouldn't be shy about trading pen pieces

Joel Sherman

Hardball

THE METS should trade every reliever they can in the next three weeks, even those performing well with future control such as Huascar Brazobán and Luke Weaver.

This is not about rebuilding. I suspect the Mets will try to contend next year — and should. This is about the unreliability of relief pitching. And if a team desperately needs one now and is willing to give future assets the Mets like, they cannot get protective about their current bullpen arms for the 2027 season.

Because no team can comfortably predict which relievers are going to be durable and excellent from season to season. So a non-contender holding onto one believing they are part of a pen solution the following year is more hubris and foolishness than sound logic.

Short relief always has been the most volatile part of assembling a team. And it is more so now when teams ask less of starters and, thus, obviously, more of relievers — coinciding with those relievers generally throwing harder and spinning greater than ever before.

The best relievers would generally be asked to pitch roughly 60-70 times in a season. ERA is not the be-all for the genre because a bad game can distort an ERA for a reliever. Still, for a full season, a relief ERA-plus should still be better than the league average of 100, even comfortably so.

Consider that even if you drop the standard to at least 50 appearances, that 56 pitchers reached that each year from 2013-15 and just 35 each year from 2023-25 — or roughly one per team on average. If you made the standard at least 50 appearances each year with an ERA-plus of 100 or more, it was 31 from 2013-15 and 14 from 2023-25.

Let's up it to 60 appearances: That was 31 relievers each year from 2013-15 and 19 the past three years. Now, how about a baseline of durability and performance you would seek of at least 60 appearances each year and an ERA-plus of 110 or better. That would be 15 from 2013-15 and four from 2023-25. Of those four, Bryan Abreu and Phil Maton have been very bad this year. Aroldis Chapman has been very good, but is unlikely to reach 60 appearances. So only Tyler Rogers seems probable to get it again, and he is a soft-tossing, side-winding oddity.

In other words, it was always difficult to determine which relievers would be good year after year. And in this current churn era, it is harder than ever. Abreu, for example, has been a consistently excellent reliever the past four seasons. This year he was walking 18.2 percent of hitters and had a 5.70 ERA. The Cubs invested two years at $14.5 million in Maton, who had a 6.08 ERA and .917 OPS against.

"It's very hard to stay healthy as a reliever, and we're always dealing with mixed pains here and there," A.J. Minter said. "That's why it's so hard to consistently put up great numbers."

Minter, for example, had a three-year run from 2021-23 in which he appeared in at least 61 games annually with at least a 115 ERA-plus. He also was in the postseason each of those years, notably as part of the championship Braves' vaunted late-game "The Night Shift." But after that it was 39 games for Atlanta in 2024, 13 for the Mets last year and 18 since returning in late May from a lat injury that cost him more than a year of pitching.

Still, Minter, despite lost velocity, and Brooks Raley are near certain to be traded by the Mets before the Aug. 3 deadline, because they are free agents after the season while being the kind of tough-minded, effective lefties that nearly every contender craves.

The more difficult questions concern Brazobán, Weaver and, if anyone were interested, Devin Williams. In fact, think about Williams. He was arguably the majors' best reliever from 2021-23 with at least 58 appearances each year and an ERA-plus of at least 168. But due to stress fractures in his back, Williams was limited to 24 regular season games in 2024 for the Brewers and served up the seminal, three-run homer to Pete Alonso that enabled the Mets to eliminate Milwaukee in the wild-card round.

The past two years, first for the Yankees and now for the Mets, Williams had a minus-0.7 WAR and an 87 ERA-plus. With two years at $30 million due after this season, it is hard to imagine contenders lining up for the righty unless the Mets were giving him away and/or eating a lot of what he is owed — and maybe not even then.

But Brazobán and Weaver will have markets. Moving them would make a bad season worse, but in this level of embarrassment does it matter if the Mets lose 86 or 96? Plus, do you want to bet on Brazobán and Weaver defying the pen volatility to remain stellar? Brazobán was good last year (52 games/115 ERA-plus) and outstanding this year (team-best 38 appearances/149 ERA-plus) and cannot be a free agent until after the 2028 season. But he will pitch at 37 next year coming off what it looks like will be his biggest workload season of his career.

Weaver began the weekend without having allowed an earned run since April 30 (24 appearances/26 innings). He was en route to a third straight season of at least 60 games and 110 ERA-plus. And with $11 million due in 2027, he is both affordable for the Mets and a hedge in case Williams has to be replaced as the closer — which Weaver did in 2025 as a Yankee.

So you can see why the Mets would want to keep him. But David Stearns has avoided long-term starter contracts because he has said he knows some will defy the declining aging curve. But — at best — you have an educated guess on which, so it is better to shun that market. The relief market is more unpredictable than that. In Milwaukee, at least, Stearns had a track record of being able to assemble quality pens as the season went along.

To some degree, he has had that this year with the Mets. He has to have the conceit he will again next year. Because contenders have to ignore the volatility with relievers to try to solve an in-the-moment crisis. Stearns has to seize on that desperation to improve the Mets' future by maximizing any reliever the market demands.

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SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

Darryl STRAWBERRY

1986 Amazin' World Series champions Darryl Strawberry and Mookie Wilson take a swing at some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby ahead of the Mets' 40-year reunion of the championship team on Aug. 1 at Citi Field.

THEIR TIME! Mookie Wilson (bottom right, and left with a celebratory bottle of champagne) and Darryl Strawberry (top right, and above with his son at the parade) were part of the 1986 World Series champion Mets.

Q: How meaningful was that early four-game sweep in St. Louis?
STRAWBERRY: I think that was really big for us to send a message to the Cardinals because they had beat us the year before. I think [Cardinals manager] Whitey Herzog said, "Nobody's gonna catch them this year." We just didn't look back once we got going.

Q: Describe Gary Carter's walk-off NLCS Game 5 single in the 12th to take a 3-2 series lead on the Astros.
STRAWBERRY: That was really big to get a walk-off like that and give us that feeling that we just didn't want to get to a Game 7. ... We just didn't have a chance against [Astros ace] Mike Scott. I don't care what lineup we put out there, we just were not going to beat him. He got in all the players' heads with what he was doing and everything.

Q: How many scuffed balls did you guys collect when Scott pitched?
WILSON: I counted a dozen. Straw hit the nail on the head: We faced tough pitchers before, but they weren't in our heads. It would have been trouble. ... If we could have just gotten over the fact that he was doing something to the ball and just play, we would have been OK. When you got the whole team worried about it, then you got problems. There was no really enforcement of that like they do now. Yeah, we complained — every day, every pitch — but it didn't do any good.

Q: Top of the ninth, Game 6 of the NLCS, down 3-0, how nerve-wracking was that?
STRAWBERRY: I remember our team that season we never gave up, no matter how many runs we were down. It was a team that would just battle. You gotta get the last out, it's not over until you get the last out. They had every opportunity, they had every excuse they want to make, but they did not get that last out.

Q: What were your emotions when Billy Hatcher hit the game-tying home run in the 14th?
WILSON: It was stressful, man. That is the one game that I wanted to end so we could start fresh another day. I was exhausted. Mentally, I had nothing left. At that point, I was willing to take my chances with Mike Scott 'cause I had nothing left in that game.
STRAWBERRY: I said "Oh my god, this is gonna be some kind of ballgame here," because we thought we had it there. We were completely drained. It was just heartbreaking when you saw it. I still didn't want to face Scott the next day. I wanted to win that game, I can tell you that right there.

Q: What were your emotions when Jesse Orosco struck out Kevin Bass in the 16th and threw his glove in the air?
WILSON: Relief. That was the Game of the Century. I still say that was probably the greatest game I've ever been a part of.

Q: What was the craziest thing you saw on that flight home?
STRAWBERRY: I saw food fights. I saw a little bit of everything. ... You had a bunch of scumbags on the team that were just drinking and throwing stuff at each other. You didn't want to come to the back of the plane, just put it like that. It was a different breed of players back then when you come back there. But we deserved it. We finally got to this place that we thought we were supposed to get to, and it wasn't easy, it was a dogfight.
WILSON: I think people fail to realize that there was a lot of family on that plane. You had the coaches, you had the family section and you had the scumbutts.
STRAWBERRY: They had their wives, too. They were in the food fight, too.
WILSON: (laughing) A great time.

Q: But then you lost the first two games to the Red Sox at Shea.
WILSON: Straw said it perfectly, that we had nothing left. And I'll go a bit farther: I think we took Boston for granted. I didn't think Boston could even be on the same field as us, to be honest with you, I thought when we beat Houston, we beat the team that we needed to beat.

Q: You were one out from losing.
STRAWBERRY: It was hard to beat us, it was hard to end the game. We hated losing. I was out of the game and I was in Davey's office with Keith and we're sitting there watching the game unfold and Keith was like, "OK, nobody move."

Q: When you came to the plate before the wild pitch that tied the game, what do you remember thinking?
WILSON: I remember just going to home plate and I just blocked everything out. The good thing about it is, I knew Bob Stanley, I faced him before, so I knew what he was going to try to do. I didn't put any pressure on myself saying I had to get a hit, I had to do this. It was just, do your best, put your best out there. I was determined to put that ball in play. I was not gonna give the umpire an opportunity to call anything close to a strike. I was just battling, man. I didn't hear anything, I didn't see anything. It was just me and the pitcher, that was it.

Q: The wild pitch that brought Kevin Mitchell home with the tying run.
WILSON: I was telling him to slide, not realizing that he could see the ball.

Q: What are you thinking when you hit the ground ball that got by first baseman Bill Buckner?
WILSON: I can't tell you what I said (laugh). I was really upset because he really threw me a good pitch to hit. That's the best pitch I had to hit the whole at-bat, and I rolled over it, man. That should have been a hook down the line down that corner for a triple, and I rolled over it, man. Now I gotta run. And I remember watching the ball bounce, this slow roller, I probably coulda beat the ball to first base, to be honest with you. And I'm just running hard, and then when the ball went between his legs, the same thing I said when I hit it, I said it again. ... I was just in shock that he actually missed that. My focus was beating Buckner to the bag. I knew it wasn't the last out of the whole series because the score was tied. So in other words, I was playing with house money.

Q: Paint the scene for me in the manager's office with you, Keith and coach/scout Darrell Johnson.
STRAWBERRY: We kind of knew the kind of team that we had that could come back and do something like this. And that fight was in 'em, you could see that fight in everybody battling. And Mook battling that at-bat was big before that ground ball to even happen. When you see the ground ball and you see how far he's playing back, and Mook's getting down that line, and

AND Mookie WILSON

you don't see a pitcher covering, you could think to yourself that he knew inside of himself it's gonna be a battle for him to get to first base because he's had bad knees and he's got bad hips, and people thought he should have been out of the ballgame, but I'm quite sure he wanted to be a part of the celebration, and he felt like he was gonna be able to beat Mook to the bag, which I didn't think he would, and he came up before he even got the ball trying to get to the bag, and that was it. It was a celebration, it was a shock, it was a miracle, and we knew right then we still had life, we still had another chance, another day to come back and try to finish off what we started.

Q: Then came the rain delay.
WILSON: I was disappointed because we had momentum and I thought the rain delay was going to calm the excitement down and then we might lose that game. Boston was defeated. They were done dealing, and I thought the rain delay would give them a chance to regroup. But even after the rain delay, in all honesty, I knew that we were gonna win Game 7. There was no way we were gonna lose Game 7. No way.
STRAWBERRY: I felt it took away from what we had just accomplished the night before. I felt like we still were gonna win that game. We had that intensity level ready to be ready for it no matter what. We had been through this long season, and realized that we have gotten this far to one game left, and we just gotta make the best out of it, we gotta go out there and we gotta play just like any other game.

Q: You fell behind 3-0.
WILSON: At no point in that game did I ever say that we weren't gonna win. And when I looked into the Boston dugout, they're waiting for something crazy (laugh). ... They were never celebrating over there! I remember looking at them, I'm saying, "They're done."
STRAWBERRY: We'd been down many times in the course of that season, and it's just a group of guys that really know how to play baseball, and really know how to come back and win. ... And it's probably the best team I've ever played on that actually knew how to come back and win ballgames. Being down 3-0 was no big thing to us.

Q: Ray Knight hits the go-ahead homer.
WILSON: It wasn't surprising that Ray hit the home run. Whenever we did something, it wasn't a surprise to me, it was expected. Somebody was going to do it.

Q: To this day Doc regrets missing the parade, right?
WILSON: That's the one regret he regrets. That's not me putting words in his mouth, that's him speaking to me about it.

Q: What made the '86 Mets the '86 Mets?
STRAWBERRY: I would sum that up as the great chemistry that we had together. You didn't always have to get along. We stepped on the field, you didn't want to mess with us. We were a different breed of players. When you did something to one of us, you did it to all of us, that's just the way we felt. We were gonna make you pay for it. ... I think that's what made us so special more than anything.
WILSON: Twenty-five personalities. One goal. We didn't have to always get along, and we had a few little scuffles and confrontations in the clubhouse — but that was in the clubhouse. When we stepped on the field, it was everybody for one. To this very day, every one of 'em is a very, very close friend because of that togetherness that we had. I would go on the road and I took my son with me a lot. I never had to worry about babysitting because he was always with somebody. They had a genuine love for each other, man.

Q: Where do the '86 Mets rank in Major League Baseball history?
STRAWBERRY: At the top. Nobody would have wanted to play us. We were different. I played on the '98 Yankees. There was no weakness on the '86 Mets, I can tell you that right now. It was gonna be tough to beat us. We're right at the top of what a championship team looks like.

Q: So you think the '86 Mets would have beaten the '98 Yankees.
STRAWBERRY: Of course. A lot of guys over there were great, and a lot of friends over there. But I just think we had a different type of focus of what we were when we hit the field — we were bad, man. We were some bad boys, I can tell you that.
WILSON: This team was probably one of the most complete teams. We had starters on the bench. How many teams were predicted to win it all and dominate and do it? Not many. The top three.

Q: When will the Mets win another championship?
STRAWBERRY: I think they are in transition. I think they are in the rebuilding phase for themself, and sometimes that has to happen before you can win again.
WILSON: I think it's about identity. You have to have an identity to have a cohesive group. That '86 team, we'd been together for a couple of years. ... The Mets are in transition right now, and it's gonna take a little time. It takes more than one great ballplayer to win.

Getty Images (3); photo courtesy of Mookie Wilson and Family

Thornton will get starting nod today

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Zach Thornton is back, and the Mets hope the prospect returns looking more like the pitcher they saw in his second outing than his first.

Thornton will start Sunday's series finale, the Mets announced after their 4-0 loss to Boston at Citi Field.

"He will figure into our mix at some point tomorrow," Green said before Saturday's game.

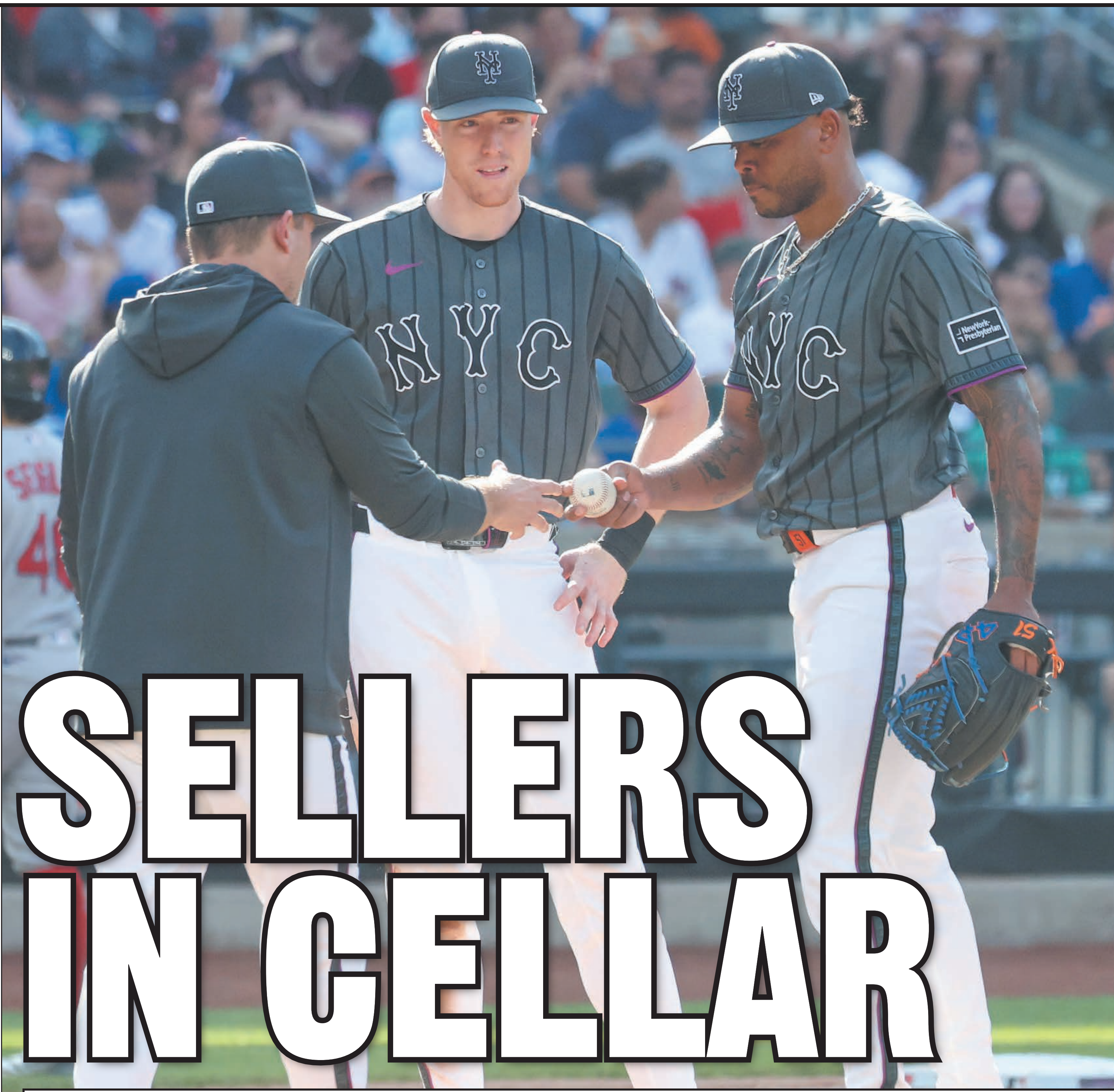
The 24-year-old Thornton has made two appearances for the Mets this season. In his debut, he lasted only 4 1/3 innings against the Nationals, allowing four earned runs. His second outing was much better, a six-inning, one-run showing against the Phillies.

It is uncertain if Thornton will have an opportunity to remain with the team after the All-Star break, although the Mets are in need of a No. 5 starter after Nolan McLean, Freddy Peralta, Christian Scott and Sean Manaea.

"The things that you love about the guys that have shown up here he has within him. He's unafraid, he's going to give you what he's got," Green said. "He's going to step on the mound, he's going to be aggressive. Most days, he's going to fill up the strike zone, he's going to attack.

"He had a really good response against Philly. Gave up three really hard missiles to start that game, and then shut them down the remainder of the game. That's who I believe him to be, that's who he is. We have high hopes for what he can become and think he will ultimately be in the rotation. We think he's the type of guy that will find a way to exceed every expectation of him."

The 6-foot-3 southpaw has had an uneven season at Triple-A Syracuse, pitching to a 4.02 ERA across 62 2/3 innings and 13 starts. He has thrown the ball better of late, yielding three earned runs over his past 13 2/3 innings while striking out 16 batters. Thornton is rated as the team's No. 12 prospect by MLB.com.



SELLERS IN CELLAR

By DAN MARTIN

RED SOX	**4**
METS	**0**

Boxscore Page 62

Instead of looking forward to a potential run in October, the only date that figures to matter for the rest of this season is Aug. 3.

The Mets have until then — the trade deadline — to move whatever assets they can in what is almost certainly going to be an ugly sell-off.

The problem — along with the fact that the deep-pocketed Mets were never supposed to be in this position — is that they don't have too many valuable pieces to trade.

Freddy Peralta, acquired from Milwaukee in the offseason, should have been high on the list of starting pitchers eyed by other teams, especially with his $8 million salary as he heads toward free agency.

But like so many of his teammates, Peralta has been a disappointment and he didn't do himself or the Mets any favors in another shaky outing Saturday, a sleep-inducing 4-0 loss to the Red Sox at Citi Field.

Peralta allowed just three hits, but he lasted only 4 1/3 innings and was done in by five walks and a two-run homer by Andruw Monasterio, as Boston won its eighth straight game.

The 30-year-old right-hander entered the game with a 6.22 ERA in his previous 10 starts after opening the year with a 3.10 ERA in his first nine outings.

"It's a terrible feeling coming out before the fifth inning [is over]," Peralta said. "I've been struggling. I'm working to try to navigate through this."

Interim manager Andy Green said he was encouraged by the life on Peralta's fastball — which helped him strike out six.

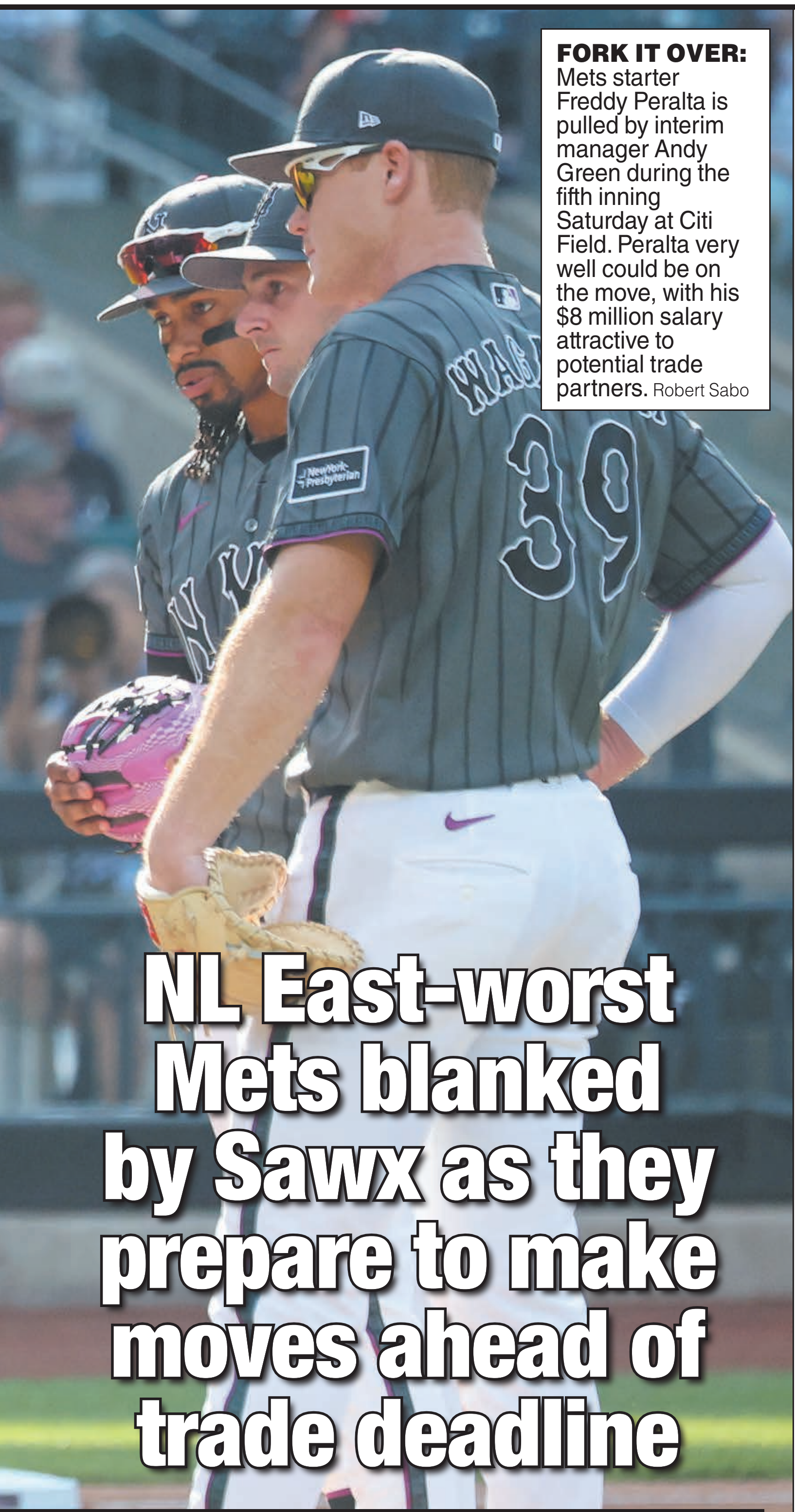
If Peralta can figure out how to keep that swing-and-miss stuff and keep his pitches in the zone more effectively, Green believes he can pitch deeper into games.

But he's running out of time to do that in a Mets uniform, as Peralta has been unable to complete five innings in four of his past five starts.

"So far, I haven't done what I'm supposed to do," Peralta said of his time with the Mets, since he was brought in to lead a rotation that helped get the team to the playoffs. "I'm working on it."

He wasn't helped Saturday by a Mets lineup that didn't get a hit until the fourth inning and went 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position for a second straight game.

They were shut down first by left-handed rookie Eduardo Rivera — making his first major



FORK IT OVER: Mets starter Freddy Peralta is pulled by interim manager Andy Green during the fifth inning Saturday at Citi Field. Peralta very well could be on the move, with his $8 million salary attractive to potential trade partners. Robert Sabo

NL East-worst Mets blanked by Sawx as they prepare to make moves ahead of trade deadline

league start and just his second MLB appearance.

Jorge Polanco got the lone hit off Rivera with two outs in the fourth.

Four Boston relievers blanked the Mets the rest of the way, as they finished with just three hits — all singles.

"We didn't have good at-bats," Green said, noting the lineup chased pitches out of the zone and then failed to capitalize on chances late.

They loaded the bases in the seventh, but A.J. Ewing struck out looking against Justin Slaten.

An inning later, Juan Soto and Francisco Lindor opened with walks, but Carson Benge lined out to right and Polanco grounded into a double play, as the Mets stranded nine runners.

With just one more game until the All-Star break, the Mets appear rudderless, with questions in the rotation and all over the lineup.

And stunningly, they'll finish the first half of the season Sunday against Boston, in the conversation with the Giants and Rockies as the worst team in the National League.

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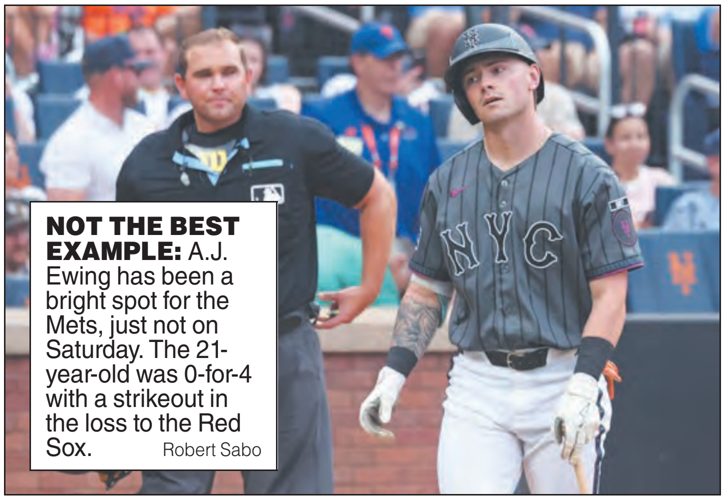
Mets notes / Page 68

Young duo a rare bright spot as extension questions loom

By DAN MARTIN



NOT THE BEST EXAMPLE: A.J. Ewing has been a bright spot for the Mets, just not on Saturday. The 21-year-old was 0-for-4 with a strikeout in the loss to the Red Sox. Robert Sabo

Like JJ Wetherholt in St. Louis, Carson Benge was a first-round pick in 2024 out of a Big 12 college.

They're both 23 years old and are off to fast starts in their rookie seasons.

Perhaps the main difference between the two — other than that Wetherholt is a second baseman and Benge is a right fielder — is that Wetherholt just signed an eight-year, $112.5 million contract extension that takes him through the 2034 season with the Cardinals.

Benge, meanwhile, remains on his rookie deal with the Mets.

Asked if the deal Wetherholt secured was on his mind, Benge laughed and said it wasn't.

"I'm sure he wasn't thinking about it before, either," Benge said before going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts and a walk in the Mets' 4-0 loss to the Red Sox on Saturday at Citi Field.

But in what's been a season to forget so far in Queens — and one that's almost certain to get worse as the Aug. 3 trade deadline approaches and the team prepares to sell off what it can — the emergence of Benge and fellow rookie A.J. Ewing is a bright spot.

Ewing — who was 0-for-4 with a strikeout — has settled into the leadoff spot and center field, and the Mets have said the 21-year-old is expected to stay there long term, despite his ability to play second base.

And Benge has continued to hit well after a rough start immediately following his Opening Day debut. As he showed Friday, he can also make an impact in right field with his arm and athleticism.

As the Mets determine their strategy for the trade deadline, which could include finding buyers for Saturday's starter, Freddy Peralta, as well as any bullpen pieces they can trade — whether it's an obvious candidate like lefty A.J. Minter or perhaps someone more valuable like Luke Weaver — they'll also be keeping an eye on the future.

That's almost certain to include both Benge and Ewing, as well as right-hander Nolan McLean, although there have been no indications the front office is planning to sign any of them to a lengthy — and expensive — deal anytime soon.

Benge said that wasn't his focus and he, like Ewing, concentrated on more immediate things he could control.

"I just want to go out there and play every day, which is what I'm doing," Benge said. "I'm just happy to be on the field and whichever way it goes down with the future, I'm gonna go out there, play my hardest and have fun."

And doing so alongside Ewing has made it more satisfying, with Benge confident better days are ahead.

"I feel like we both come in every day ready to work, ready to play and ready to play the game the right way," Benge said. "I feel like if me and A.J. are here together for a long time, we're gonna bring a lot of wins here."

Most of the other lucrative deals handed out to rookies this season have involved players who didn't go to college, from Detroit's Kevin McGonigle (eight years, $150 million) to Seattle's Colt Emerson (eight years, $95 million) and Cooper Pratt (eight years, $50.75 million) with David Stearns' former team, the Brewers.

Benge entered Saturday with a higher WAR according to FanGraphs than all but McGonigle and Wetherholt on that list.

ON DECK: vs. Red Sox

Sunday, 1:40 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Zach Thornton

2026 stats:
0-1, 4.35 ERA

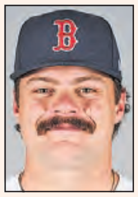
Career vs. BOS:
First appearance

Last start:
June 26 vs. PHI;
6.0 IP, 5 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

45%	23%	16%
Cutter	4-Seamer	Sweeper

LHP Payton Tolle



2026 stats:
5-6, 3.14 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
First appearance

Last start:
Tues., at CHW;
6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

48%	23%	18%
4-Seamer	Sinker	Cutter

UP NEXT

THURSDAY: at Phillies, 7:10 p.m., ESPN, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: at Phillies, 4:05 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Clay Holmes** reported no issues the day after throwing 40 pitches off a mound over two simulated innings at Citi Field. The right-hander is building himself up after being sidelined since May with a fractured right fibula.

EIGHTH IS ENOUGH

Bombers clobber trio of homers in 8th inning to top Nats, keep sweep in play

By GREG JOYCE

WASHINGTON — For seven innings Saturday afternoon, the Yankees lineup barely made a peep.

Then in the eighth, they added to their recent collection of stirring rallies — joining the third inning Thursday against the Rays and the ninth inning Friday against the Nationals — to capture a third straight victory.

Ryan McMahon, Trent Grisham and Paul Goldschmidt all homered in the eighth inning to turn a two-run deficit into a 4-2 win over the Nationals at muggy Nationals Park.

YANKEES 4
NATIONALS 2

Boxscore Page 62

Leaning into the flair for the dramatic for a second straight day, the Yankees (53-42) took advantage of a terrible Washington bullpen — this was its 27th blown save — and got more contributions from all corners of the roster as they try to fully snap out of their recent funk and end the first half on a high note, with a chance Sunday for a sweep.

"I think it just doubles down on the belief for everybody," Grisham said. "You have a tough week, when you do this every day, it can seem way bleaker than it is at times, especially in this city. So it just puts everybody back at ease and reminds everybody, 'Oh yeah, we got this. We got a bunch of good players.' I think it just puts everybody at ease and reminds everybody of who we are."

On a day when it was a grind for Cam Schlittler, he still gave the Yankees a chance to win by giving up two runs, on a pair of solo homers in the first inning, across $6\,{}^{2}/_{3}$ innings.

THREE'S COMPANY: Ryan McMahon (right), Paul Goldschmidt (left) and Trent Grisham each homered in the eighth inning Saturday, lifting the Yankees to a 4-2 victory over the Nationals in Washington.

Getty Images; AP; Imagn Images

Still, they trailed 2-0 entering the eighth inning before finally coming alive.

With one out, Ryan McMahon — who delivered the game-changing 12-pitch at-bat for an RBI double in Thursday's win at Tampa Bay — provided another spark, belting a solo home run off Orlando Ribalta to pull the Yankees within 2-1.

"Got to two strikes kind of quick, so just trying to choke-and-poke one," McMahon said. "He put one in a good spot and I got to it pretty good."

Then, after Ben Rice drew a walk to reach base for the fourth time, the Nationals countered by bringing in former Yankees prospect Clayton Beeter. Grisham greeted him by clobbering a two-run shot to the second deck in right field that put the Yankees ahead 3-2.

Goldschmidt, who snapped out of an 0-for-34 skid Friday night, then made it back-to-back by drilling a home run to left field for the insurance run.

"It's electric to come back," Schlittler said. "We're playing great baseball in the later innings, and that's what it takes to win championships."

It was McMahon's first home run since June 18, Grisham's first since July 3 and Goldschmidt's first since June 24.

Fernando Cruz breezed through a seven-pitch bottom of the eighth before David Bednar — who threw two innings to finish off Friday night's win but had little doubt that he would be available once he arrived at the park Saturday — closed it out with a scoreless ninth.

"Going through that 10-day period where it was really hard, we've had some really good feel-good wins where a lot of people have been involved," said Aaron Boone, who recorded his 750th career victory as a manager. "Lot of different contributions whether it's guys in the pen, guys off the bench in some cases, whether it's our central figures. That always feels good."

It did not always look rosy for the Yankees on Saturday, as they spent most of the day being shut down by the Nationals, including bulk reliever Miles Mikolas, who entered the day with a 5.78 ERA in 19 games but tossed four shutout innings.

But they saved their best for last, keeping the good vibes alive after what had been a brutal few weeks.

"That's what's crazy about baseball," McMahon said. "We feel good right now, obviously won a couple games late, that always boosts momentum. You just got to ride the waves of the season, can't get too high, can't get too low, just got to keep showing up and doing your job."

gjoyce@nypost.com

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INJURY REPORT

- **Max Fried** (left elbow bone bruise) was set to throw about 45 pitches in a simulated game Saturday at Double-A Somerset. If he comes through it well, he should start a rehab assignment after the All-Star break.
- **Aaron Judge** (right rib stress fracture) is set to undergo imaging during the break to determine if there has been enough healing to increase his workload.

ON DECK

at Nationals

Sunday, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Will Warren

2026 stats:
7-4, 4.15 ERA

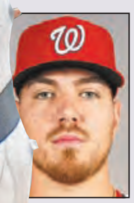
Career vs. WAS:
First appearance

Last start:
Tues., at TB;
4 IP, 7 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

39%	28%	20%
4-Seamer	Sinker	Sweeper

RHP Cade Cavalli



2026 stats:
5-4, 3.88 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-1, 27.00 ERA

Last start:
July 5, vs. PIT;
2.1 IP, 6 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

35%	28%	16%
4-Seamer	Knuckle	Sinker

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: vs. Dodgers,
7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: vs. Dodgers,
8:08 p.m., Fox, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

WELL' DONE: Catcher Austin Wells, celebrating Saturday's win with David Bednar, had homered in each of the prior two games. Getty Images

Wells reboots power after homer drought

By GREG JOYCE

WASHINGTON — On Thursday morning, Brian Cashman acknowledged the obvious when asked about the Yankees catcher position.

"It's an issue, clearly," he said.

Since then, Austin Wells homered in back-to-back games after having just one in his previous 38 games dating to May 1. And while that does not change the fact that the Yankees still need catching help at the deadline, the two swings sorely were needed signs of life from the backstop who has still been one of the league's worst hitters approaching the All-Star break.

"Hopefully, it's something that he continues to build on," manager Aaron Boone said before Saturday's 4-2 win over the Nationals. "We need him to, and he needs to build on that, because he needs to be a factor for us offensively."

The lefty-hitting catcher crushed a home run against Rays lefty Cam Booser in Thursday's offensive outburst and then delivered an even more important blow in the ninth inning Friday night, belting a solo shot off Nationals righty Justin Lawrence to provide breathing room after Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s go-ahead blast.

They were reminders of the kind of offensive potential Wells, who did not start Saturday but went 0-for-2 after coming on in relief of backup Ali Sánchez, flashed more often over his first three years in the big leagues before it mostly disappeared this season. He entered play batting just .153 with a .504 OPS and six home runs. His batting average and OPS both were the lowest among 255 hitters with at least 200 plate appearances, while his WRC+ of 42 (100 being league average) was the second lowest.

"On the defensive side, I think we're thriving there," Cashman said Thursday. "On the offensive side, it's been a struggle, and it's a surprise. We feel like we have players capable of a lot more. I recognize and acknowledge how difficult this game can be, and so it's become an area of concern, clearly, when it wasn't expected to be. I know [Wells] is doing everything he can, and they are doing everything they can to improve in that category. I know that they're capable of that, but at the same time, it's been a struggle."

While Wells was on the injured list in June for cervical headaches, he went to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and worked with some minor league hitting coaches on refining his mechanics.

Boone has continued to insist he sees a difference in Wells' movement in the box since his June 21 return, even though he had little to show for it until Thursday and Friday.

"I haven't been making it up," Boone said. "I do feel like since coming back [from the IL], I've noticed him moving the needle, as far as his move and stuff, that's a little more in line, just from my eye, with what he's been in the past. So that's absolutely in there. What we saw [Friday] night and the day before, from a move standpoint, is a lot different than a few weeks ago, maybe not to the naked eye, but me watching him, I see a significant difference."

Yanks notes / Page 67

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AN AFTERNOON DELIGHT

YANKS RALLY LATE, BEAT NATS FOR 3RD STRAIGHT 'W' / JOYCE: PAGES 86-87, 67

SUNDAY
NEW YORK POST
Sports

JULY 12, 2026

Jude & Co. outlast Norway, advance to World Cup semis

COMPLETE WORLD CUP COVERAGE / PAGES 79-76

ENGLISH BULLDOGS

STONES
10
NORWAY
07.26

Getty Images

EXTRA SPECIAL!
ARGENTINA ESCAPES SWISS / P. 76-77

2 - 1
EXTRA TIME

Jude Bellingham scored both goals for England, including the eventual winner in extra time, as the Three Lions disposed of Norway 2-1 in their World Cup quarterfinal Saturday. They will face Argentina and star Lionel Messi on Wednesday for a chance to go to their first final since 1966.

WHOLE LOTTA NOTHING

AMAZIN'S BLANKED BY BOSOX IN LATEST LOSS

PAGES 84-85